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Inside THE LID OFF PRO WRESTLING THE LID OFF PR

4	SINCERELY YOURS	
	Bad Old WCW; Hear It For Hyatt; Soaring "Rocket"	

- 6 REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK by Stu Saks Early feedback on the new PWI Weekly
- 8 NAMES MAKIN' NEWS by Bill Apter The latest happenings around the wrestling world
- 10 ON THE ROAD with V.J. Paterno Mexico invades Chicago and New York!
- 12 BEHIND THE DRESSING ROOM DOOR by David Rosenbaum Like it or not, Honky Tonk Man is back!
- 14 THE INSIDER by Eddie Ellner Eddie shows no sympathy for his devil
- 16 ON ASSIGNMENT by Liz Hunter Smile for the camera! WCW stars reveal their E!-motions
- 18 CAPSULE PROFILE #221 A look at the revitalized Sid Vicious
- 20 WHERE ARE THEY NOW?
 What happened to some stars of the past
- 22 NEWS FROM THE WRESTLING CAPITALS Several key cards and their highlight matches
- 24 MATT BROCK'S PLAIN SPEAKING A variety of comments from the crusty scribe
- 26 IAN & AXL ROTTEN:

 "IF WE WEREN'T IN WRESTLING, WE'D BE ON DEATH ROW!"

 Brothers go from blue-collar Britain to fame as Bad Breed
- 30 STOP LAUGHING! WHY SPARKY PLUGG DESERVES A WORLD TITLE SHOT The WWF may put this young star in its fast lane
- 34 HOGAN IN PARADISE ... AND RIC FLAIR FEELS THE THUNDER How the "Hulkster" captured his initial WCW World title belt
- 38 A PSYCHOLOGIST ANALYZES THE HART FEUD: "IT'S ALL BRET'S FAULT!"

 The underlying factors behind these battling brothers
- 42 "I'M SO PROUD TO BE LAST IN THE 'PWI 500'!"
 Donn E. Allen discusses anchoring the annual survey in "Hotseat"
- 46 BANG, BANG! WCW FINALLY GOT CACTUS JACK! Federation officials force out the New Mexican madman
- 50 AY, CARAMBA! YOU NEVER SAW MIDGET WRESTLING LIKE THIS! These Mexican mites aren't cute, just superb athletes
- 54 ONE ON ONE: DUSTIN RHODES VS. ARN ANDERSON "The Natural" and "The Enforcer" speak after their tag team split
- 64 OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS
 The top 15 rankings in six key categories
- 65 INSIDE WRESTLING ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS
 All the champions, from the various federations
- 66 BLAST FROM THE PAST This is one Primo crushing

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Founder

W I I	
PUBLISHER	Stuart M. Saks
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER	Craig Peters
SENIOR EDITOR	Bill Apter
MANAGING EDITOR	V. J. Paterno
ASSOCIATE EDITOR	David Lenker
	Barbara Ann Brady
ART ASSOCIATES	
////	
	Joseph Kalman
	Alex Krasnopolsky
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR	Bob Eddy
PRODUCTION ASSOCIATES	
Ber	

SENIOR WRITERS	
	Andy Rodriguez
T	
	Eddie Ellner
PHOTO EDITOR	Jason Ross Lavin
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS	
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT	

VICE PRESIDENT MARKETING

David Gerhardt

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT CIRCULATION

Kenneth J. Gudaitis

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR

Robert Nucci

TECHNICAL ADVISER/PRODUCTION

Doug Heller

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES

Nancy Parsons P.O. Box 910 Fort Washington, PA 19034

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Look for our special Winter 1994 edition, on sale October 25

Sincerely Yours

While many looked forward to the

Ric Flair-Hulk Hogan match at

WCW's Bash at the Beach, reader Jamie Strong wasn't one of them.

He'd prefer to see the federation

BAD OLD WCW

No! Please, somebody pinch me. Someone tell me I didn't see Glory Hog on a WCW telecast. Just when I thought it was safe to watch WCW again, here comes

the most overrated wrestler in history—Hulk Hogan. The "Hulkster" feuding with Ric Flair? I think not. This would have been good 20 years ago, but now they're both so old and senile they'll probably have a heart attack on their way to the ring.

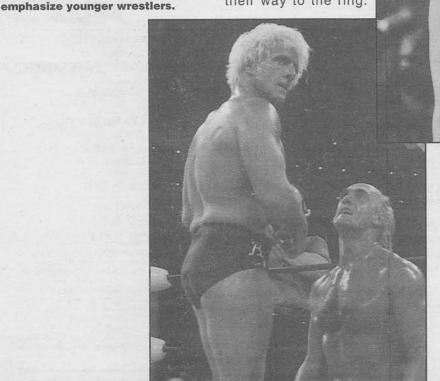
Send letters to: Sincerely Yours P.O. Box 956 Fort Washington, PA 19034 What, are they gonna have steel wheelchair matches? The fans are sick and tired of being fed the same garbage year after year. I have a little advice for you washed-up has-beens: Be like Mike and retire.

Just seeing this pathetic attempt by the federation to bring back its former glory makes me sick. With so much fresh *young* talent waiting for a chance, you'd think WCW wouldn't resort to the same old song and dance.

JAMIE STRONG Buffalo, NY

HEAR IT FOR HYATT

People in the wrestling world need to wake up and realize what



Missy Hyatt's absence from wrestling dampens the spirits of reader Mike Dampier. He calls her a managerial mastermind who helped The Nasty Boys become WCW World tag team champions.

a great loss it will be if Missy Hyatt doesn't come back to wrestling.

So what about the clothes she wore to ringside. It's not like she's the only person, male or female, who loves to show off. She's a great manager and has a great mind. She's not the blonde bimbo that WCW portrayed her as being. She's a mastermind.

When she was in The Nasty Boys' corner, they were World champs. Now she's gone, and so are their belts. I bet that if Missy was in the corner of Sting or Marcus Alexander Bagwell, everyone would love her, no matter what she wore or what she did.

So wake up, wrestling world. Long live the first lady of pro wrestling!

> MIKE DAMPIER Hot Springs, AR

SOARING "ROCKET"

After making an auspicious debut in the Stampede promotion years ago, Owen Hart entered the WWF, where he failed to gain any momentum. Soon, Owen began teaming with Jim Neidhart and Koko B. Ware, and had moderate success. After some careful consideration, Owen realized some changes were necessary for him to regain the momentum of his early career.

Since his transformation into a rulebreaker, Owen has defeated men like former Intercontinental champion Marty Jannetty. He further proved his worthiness to be called one of the WWF's elite by winning the King of the Ring tournament, beating Tatanka, The Kid, and Razor Ramon. Hands down, Owen Hart is truly the most improved wrestler of 1994.

STAN R. LENKIEWICZ Paramus, NJ

LEGENDARY LARRY

The triumphant return of "Living Legend" Larry Zbyszko in WCW was the comeback of the year! I loved it when he sent the pompous jerk Lord Steven Regal on a one-way trip to "Larry-land" and captured the TV title. Maybe he and Arn Anderson can reunite The Enforcers and reclaim the WCW World tag team belts!

JIMMY NANCE Asheboro, NC



Owen Hart's career was stalled, according to reader Stan R. Lenklewicz, and was revived only when he turned to rulebreaking. Now he calls Hart the WWF's most improved wrestler.

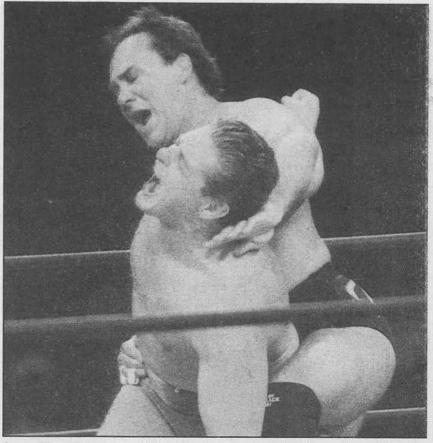
RELATIVELY SPEAKING

In the unfolding drama of the Hart family schism, there appears to be one forgotten family member. Ironically, like Jim Neidhart, this person is also a brother-in-law. I'm speaking of Davey Boy Smith, the "British Bulldog." He is married to the former Diana Hart.

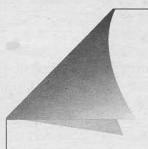
Smith last wrestled in WCW before returning to his native England. However, he has signed to appear on the WWF's upcoming European tour. Perhaps the time is right for Bret to persuade Davey Boy and the WWF suits to reach an accord on an extended stay in the States for Smith. This could give Bret a counter-balance to Neidhart's shenanigans.

Then again, if any animosity remains between Davey Boy and Bret (Smith won the Intercontinental title from Bret at Summer-

(Continued on page 56)



Larry Zbyszko's masterful return to championship form pleased reader Jimmy Nance. He would like to see the "Living Legend" next pursue the WCW tag team title with Arn Anderson.



REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK By Stu Saks

I'm encouraged by the positive feedback I've received from those people who have seen the newly revamped *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly.* "Great job, guys," wrote Lois McKenzie of Roanoke, Virginia, who's been receiving the newsletter since its debut five years ago. "You had a goal. You devised a plan. You succeeded."

Essentially, our goal was to reduce the price of what we feel is essential reading for any true wrestling fan. We did that. The plan was to alter the format so that the information most of us deemed crucial (extensive worldwide results and late-breaking news) remained intact. We did that. The question of whether or not we succeeded can only be answered by you.

Feedback anyone?

"I always loved *PWI Weekly*," wrote Hank Volpe of Butte, Montana, "but it had become a little difficult to scrape together the money. With the exception of Steve Anderson's cartoon, there was nothing cut from the the old *PWI Weekly* that I miss. And it's so much more affordable!"

If you'd like to receive a free sample copy of *PWI* Weekly, all you have to do is send us a business-sized (4" x 9½") envelope with a stamp and your address on the front to: Free Weekly Offer c/o Inside Wrestling, P.O. Box 956, Fort Washington, PA 19034. Your envelopes must be received by September 30, 1994, in order to qualify for this free offer. One per household, please. Recipients of a free *PWI* Weekly through this offer will receive the edition produced on October 10, 1994, and mailed October 12, 1994.

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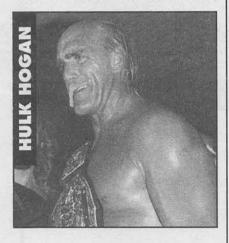
If you are looking for a special holiday gift for a wrestling fan, we have the answer. Try a gift subscription package of the world's best-selling and most respected wrestling magazines! It's the only holiday gift that lasts the entire year! Just check off which gift package you want, and we do the rest! A gift notice will be sent to the recipient. There's no better way to make this a memorable holiday season for someone you love!

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NAMES MA

PERHAPS HULK HOGAN should now bill himself as "Nature Boy III." After all, the "Hulkster" now shares an honor previously limited to both previous "Nature Boys," Ric Flair and Buddy Rogers. They are the only wrestlers to capture World titles in both NWA/WCW and the WWF.

Hogan earned his place in history July 17 by defeating Flair for the WCW belt at Bash at the Beach in Orlando, Florida. It was his debut match in **Ted Turner's** federation,



and sixth world title overall.

"Those few who doubted the power of 'Hulkamania' had better reconsider, brother," Hogan said after the victory. "Beating Ric Flair wasn't easy—he's a real great wrestler—but I knew I'd come through!"

Flair vowed to regain the title. "Hulk did it once, but no more. I'm a superb champion, but an even more tenacious challenger. I will be back! Count on it." We will see ...

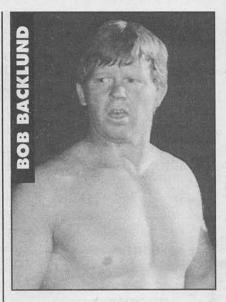
The tag team belts also changed hands in Orlando that night. Paul Orndorff and Paul Roma, who call themselves Pretty Wonderful even

though they're rulebreakers, defeated champions Cactus Jack and Kevin Sullivan. "You better take us seriously now!" Orndorff said. He and Roma have since been defending the belts against Marcus Alexander Bagwell and his new partner, The Patriot.

Hogan, Flair, Orndorff, Roma, and Sherri Martel (who was recently fined \$25,000 by WCW Commissioner Nick Bockwinkel for interfering during Flair's loss to Hogan) are among many WWF alums now in WCW. Add one more to the list, as Hacksaw Duggan recently appeared on a WCW Saturday Night TV taping in Atlanta. The product of upstate New York received a big roar from the crowd en route to winning his two matches.

WWF fans breathed a sigh of relief when a federal jury in Uniondale, New York, acquitted federation head Vince McMahon on charges of conspiring to distribute steroids to wrestlers. Earlier, U.S. District Judge Jacob Mishler had dismissed steroid distribution charges against





the 48-year-old McMahon. The WWF head, wearing a neck brace while recovering from surgery, has returned to his announcing duties on federation telecasts. The WWF had signed **Jim Ross** to fill in on a temporary basis.

Shawn Michaels hadn't wrestling much since losing that famed ladder match to Razor Ramon at Wrestle-Mania X. Michaels did make an appearance at a WWF Monday Night Raw telecast in Youngstown, Ohio, and, with Intercontinental champ Diesel there for support, defeated Ramon. Michaels remains pound-for-pound among the best competitors anywhere. It would be interesting to see how he would do against the towering Diesel, whose career he helped to revitalize.

Also in Youngstown, Japan's Bull Nakano made her American debut against World Women's champion Alundra Blayze. Nakano, guided by Luna Vachon, battled Blayze to a double-countout in a very rousing match. This has the potential to be

KIN' NEWS

By Bill Apter

the best series of women's matches in this country in many years.

Whether or not **Bob Backlund** is becoming a rulebreaker, there's no doubt that the former World champion is upset about *something*. Backlund, who slapped current champ **Bret Hart** after losing to him in July, appeared on **Jerry Lawler's** "King's Court" segment on *Raw*, where he lambasted Hart and the current crop of WWF stars. Does he

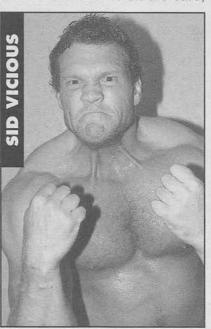


feel threatened by the federation's "New Generation" campaign? The last time I saw Backlund this animated was when **Superstar Graham** destroyed his title belt.

I've enjoyed Mexico's acrobatic wrestling for years, and am glad to see it doing well in the U.S. outside of Southern California. Promoted by the IWC, AAA wrestlers competed in Chicago and New York recently and drew respectable crowds, mostly Mexican-Americans, in both places. Among the stars who took part were El Hijo del Santo, Konnan, Octagon, 2 Cold Scorpio, Tito Santana, and the man Mexican fans love to hate, Jake Roberts. And

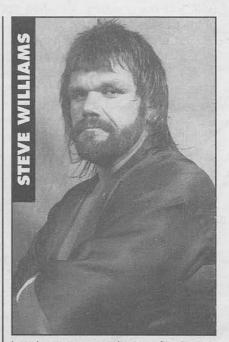
don't forget the great midgets like **Espectrito** and the dazzling **Mascarita Sagrada**, who can be measured with a yardstick but wrestles with an abandon seen in few men twice his height. Expect IWC/AAA to hold more cards well north of the border in the future, and to see more non-Hispanics on hand once word gets out about the quality of competition.

He's baaaaaack! Sid Vicious, who's had more comebacks than virtually anyone else in wrestling, now has the USWA title to his credit. Vicious, whose hometown of West Memphis, Arkansas, is just across the river from Mid-South Coliseum, won the belt by forfeit when champion Jerry Lawler was unable to wrestle Sid. Earlier on the card,



Vicious had attacked "The King," rendering him unable to compete. *Hmmmmmm*.

Steve Williams, who for years



has been among the top foreigners in Japanese wrestling, reached the pinnacle by defeating Mitsuharu Misawa for the Triple Crown titles on an All-Japan card in Tokyo. Misawa had held the honors for nearly two years. Williams is only the third American to win the belts; the others were Stan Hansen (three times) and Terry Gordy (twice). Gordy and Williams at one time were tag team partners. Don't be surprised if Gordy returns to Japan in order to get another shot at the belts.

Finally, the North Carolina-based Pro Wrestling Federation has a new heavyweight champion, as Russian Assassin II (with help from manager Russian Assassin I) conquered Italian Stallion in the finals of a tournament to determine a new titleholder. The next day, PWF held a benefit card for local children. Nice idea.

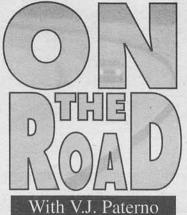
That's all for now. See you at the matches! $\hfill\Box$

THIS IS A story of a Mexican invasion, wrestling style. Specifically, it's about one of that country's leading federations, AAA, and how it's grabbing attention north of the border.

First and foremost, the wrestling is excellent. You'll be reading more about AAA in INSIDE WRESTLING and our sister

magazines in coming months. In fact, I have a piece on page 50 about its fascinating midget wrestlers. But here, let's focus on things outside the ring.

It all began in August of 1993, when International



tured on Galavision, a Spanish-language cable outlet carried on many systems.

So the promoters held the card, and people came ... and came ... and came ... and came and came. Mexican fans traditionally buy tickets at the door rather than in advance, and this time they arrived in droves. With Konnan, Jake Roberts.

and Cien Caras headlining in a triangular match, IWC/AAA drew a sellout throng of 16,742. Moreover, an estimated 7,000 fans were turned away. Gridlock on a nearby freeway extended for more than a mile.

(The night before, the IWC/AAA card in San Jose nearly sold out a 4.500-seat arena.)

Later IWC/AAA cards in California also did good business, so you can understand why promoters decided to invade U.S. markets outside the Golden State. They targeted Chicago and New York, two cities with large Hispanic populations. Makes sense, right?

Not so fast. If you think Spanish-speaking Americans are one amorphous mass, George Steinbrenner wants vou as his director of community relations. The Latino population in New York, for example, has long had a dominant Puerto Rican flavor, although the Dominican segment is growing. Across the Hudson in Union City, New Jersey, there is a huge Cuban community. All have differing cultures, and don't like being lumped together. There are Mexican natives, too-you can find virtually every ethnic group somewhere in the Big Apple-but they've never been particularly visible.

Wrestling skeptics bolstered their arsenal when IWC/AAA postponed its Chicago and New York dates over several months. Finally, IWC/AAA got down to business and held the cards, featuring many of its greatest stars (Konnan, Perro (Continued on page 61)

2 Cold Scorpio wrestled at The Paramount when WCW held a card there in 1993. He returned to the building as an independent, joining Tito Santana and Heavy Metal to beat Los Payasos (The Clowns).

Wrestling Council promoters held a card at the Los Angeles Sports Arena featuring the stars of the Mexican-based AAA. No surprise there; Mexican wrestling telecasts have been aired in Southern California for years. More recently, they've been fea-

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What manager brought Hulk Hogan to the WWF in 1979?

- Capt. Lou Albano
 The Grand Wizard
- 3) Fred Blassie
- 4) Arnold Skaaland

Which of the following wrestlers did Lex Luger not defeat to capture one of his four U.S. heavyweight titles?

1) Nikita Koloff

- 2) Dusty Rhodes 3) Michael Hayes
- 4) Stan Hansen

True or False: Dusty Rhodes was once managed by rulebreaking manager Gary Hart.

- 1) True 2) False

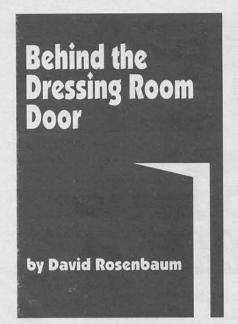
How did Ric Flair severely injure his back in October 1975? Airpiane crash

- 2) Ring injury 3) Automobile accident 4) None of the above

How did you do? If you're up for the challenge and want to put your wrestling knowledge to work, call now and go for the \$100!

WRESTLING CHALLENGE RULES & REGULATIONS

Call as often as you like. The contest begins Sept 1, 1994, and runs through November 30, 1994. There is no age restriction to participate. The charge for each call is \$1.49 per minute. The contest is sponsored by Advanced Telecom Services and London Publishing Co. in connection with Pro Wrestling Illustrated. No purchase necessary to participate. Void in MN, NJ, LA, GA, and where prohibited by law. All unclaimed prizes will be awarded via second-chance drawing. The odds of winning are dependent on the number of entries. Complete rules and mail-in entries are available by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to PWI TRIVIA, P.O. Box 625, Devon, PA 19333. To win, answer seven consecutive trivia questions correctly and you automatically qualify for the monthly drawing of one \$100 winner. From Sept 1, 1994, until November 30, 1994, a total of 9 PWI T-shirts (retail value \$19.95 each) will be awarded. London Publishing Co. will select the winners. No substitutions allowed.



T WAS 4:58 on a Thursday afternoon in August. I was depressed. The newly once-again, twice-revised publishing schedule had just been released and the news was horrific: The deadline for one of the magazines had been moved up nearly a month.

The phone rang. It was Associate Publisher Craig Peters.

"Dave," he said, "I have some good news for you."

Great. The deadline had been revised again.

"The deadline hasn't been changed," he said. "But what could make you happy for a whole year?"

A million things went through my mind. Lynne Russell on CNN. A base-ball strike just as the Yankees are about to win the World Series. Six-percent fixed-rate mortgages. The main hockey beat with *The New York Times*.

The right answer came to me immediately. See if you can guess.

I'll give you a few clues.

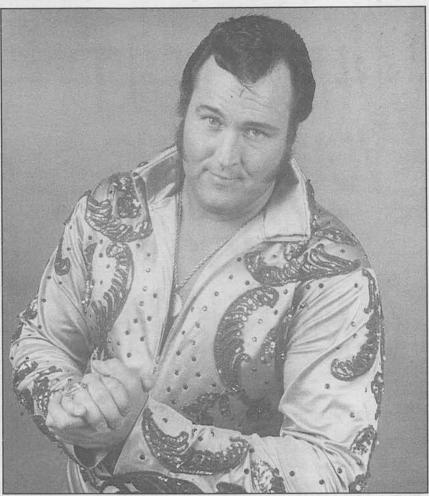
He sings, he dances, and he plays the guitar.

Need more?

He's cool, he's cocky, he's bad.

More clues?

His performance at the WWF's Slammy Awards is still being talked about.



He's baaaaaack! Honky Tonk Man, one of the WWF's most controversial stars and its longest-running Intercontinental champion, has resurfaced in WCW after several years as an independent.

Even more? Come on! Andy Rodriguez solved it on the first clue!

He is the longest-reigning WWF Intercontinental champion in history.

The Honky Tonk Man? Got it!

Cooler, cockier, and badder than ever. The news, indeed, was that The Honky Tonk Man was coming to WCW. This 6'1", 256-pound barrel of joy will bring happiness, fun, laughter, music, and a lot of great wrestling to WCW.

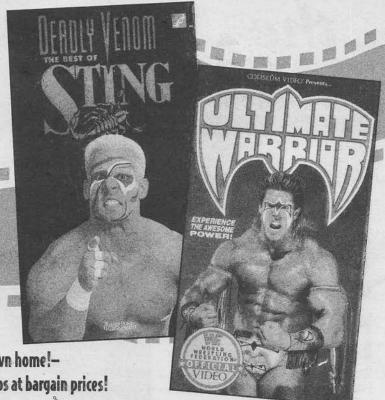
Much maligned, always misunderstood, Honky Tonk has bounced back again from near-oblivion and stands once again at the verge of superstardom.

If Stu Saks were dead, he'd be twirling in his grave. Stu absolutely hates Honky Tonk Man and has no respect for his ability. Well, take this, Stu: June 2, 1987, through August 29, 1988. That was the length of Honky Tonk's I-C title reign, and it will go down in history as the finest ever. Honky Tonk began it with a startling victory over Rick Steamboat—who most wrestling experts agree will be in the Hall of Fame—and ended it, exhausted, with a loss to The Ultimate Warrior.

Along the way, Honky Tonk sang a few new songs, scored more than a few upsets, and proved every critic right. As for that performance at the Slammys...

Well, you had to be there. Honky Tonk, dressed in a power blue tuxedo, drove onto the stage in a pink Cadillac and sang his way into our hearts. I've never seen Andy Rodriguez laugh so (Continued on page 58)

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STING: DEADLY VENOM (pictured)

Packed with highlights of the "Stinger's" greatest moments! See his Great American Bash '91 chain match with Nikita Koloff, his SuperBrawl II WCW World title victory over Lex Luger, his amazing Beach Blast '92 brawl with Cactus Jack, grueling battles with Big Van Vader at SuperBrawl III and Starrcade '92, the Halloween Havoc '92 pole match with Jake Roberts, War Games action, and more! Approx. 30 minutes. \$12.95.

THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR (pictured)

Experience the awesome power of The Ultimate Warrior as he battles Papa Shango, Skinner, and Brian Knobs! Watch him team with The Undertaker to take on Shango and Berzerker! And no Warrior tape would be complete without his stirring WWF World title victory over Hulk Hogan at WrestleMania VI—voted 1990 Match of the Year by Pro Wrestling Illustrated readers! Approx. 60 minutes. \$12.95

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the Insider by Eddie Ellner

(The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.)

EWS ITEM: A Short WWF Zen Primer for the Spiritually Impaired. What's the sound of one man gloating? Ha ha ha. When a federation dies in the forest and no one is around to hear it scream, does it make a noise? Who knows?

Attendence at WWF shows are down, way down. What can you expect when Nikolai Volkoff is feted as a feature attraction? As fresh milk needs time to curdle, a selfish deed takes time to bring sorrow in its wake. So vince mcmahon (lower case, as in k.d. lang or e.e. cummings) got off the hook. Legally, in the eyes of the court, he is not guilty of running steroids through his federation like a pusher on the street.

Let's see now. Hulk Hogan admitted using steroids for 13 years, though five years ago, when David Shultz and Superstar Graham testified they personally shot steroids with him, Hogan denied any involvement. mcmahon, who has admitted using steroids and who knew when Hogan was having a bowel movement, would have us believe that he had nothing to do with distributing steroids to his feature attraction.



Feel sympathy for WWF head Vince McMahon, Ellner says. He may have been legally exonerated, but now he's suffering—and not just because of the neck brace he was wearing.

Those who dwell on negative thoughts will never be free from hatred. I do not hate vince mcmahon any longer. Watching him cringe and grovel in his neck brace brought an end to my suffering. I have compassion for his plight. His neck is stiff because he is rigid in his ways. In his next life

he will face a horrific reincarnation: He will come back as himself.

The face is overrun by wrinkles. The head is marked with gray. The limbs have gone flaccid. Craving alone keeps its youth and vigor. mcmahon will always try to duplicate the success he thinks he had.

(Continued on page 60)

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Assignment

word filtered through the ranks of WCW that the E! network intended to feature the federation in a three-part puff piece on the world of professional wrestling, the competitors started lining up for interviews. It got so bad that producers, who feared the media-shy grapplers would not cooperate, had to limit the number of wrestlers they interviewed.

Why the mad scramble for mainstream publicity? Arn Anderson blamed it on baseball. "Every-

one around here thinks wrestling is gonna take off bigger than ever when the baseball strike starts," he said. "They think if they get on commercial TV, they'll get famous and get endorsements. That's absurd. Nothing's that cut and dry."

Nevertheless, Anderson willingly waited over an hour to have his say into the cameras and was furious when his segment was edited out. "They said I was too aggressive," he said. "Oh boy, I'd like to get that producer in the ring and teach him what aggressive really means."

The production, which aired last month, hardly offered a groundbreaking glimpse into the wrestling world. There were no uncovered scandals, no O.J.-like melodramas. Rather, it let a group of (usually) interesting wrestlers talk about the things that are important to them.

"I think I've made a real impact on the children," offered Dustin Rhodes, coming off as a cross between Jimmy Stewart and Mr. Rogers. "You can see in their eyes how special it is for them to interact with positive role models. I learned from my father that you always have time for the people who are responsible for your success."

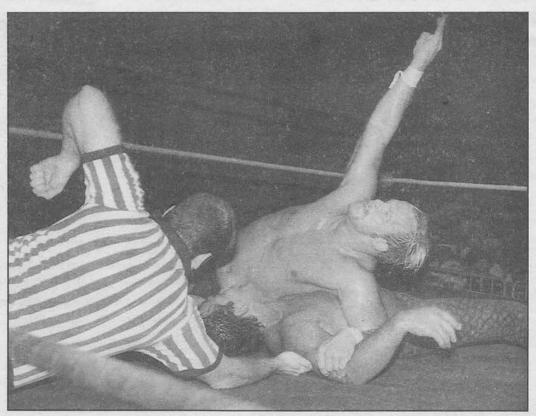
If you expected thrills from

vein of humility. "Can you imagine! Everything I have I owe to the fans of this sport. I remember that every time I step into the ring."

Others lost their nerve.

"Hey, I was a prison guard," said The Guardian Angel, "and I was given a choice: Work in solitary confinement or make it as a wrestler. Thank God it's worked out for me."

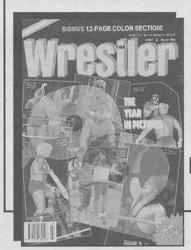
The humble pie was so thickly sweet, it was like listening to a hive of honeybees. I suppose in light of recent wrestling-related head-



Steve Austin insists he's not a role model. The U.S. champion says children can never hope to fill his shoes, and decries the hypocrisy of other wrestlers who slyly cheat while putting on a false front.

Johnny B. Badd, you were sadly disappointed. "I was digging swimming pools three years ago," Badd practically cried, mining a similar lines—Vince McMahon's steroid trial for instance—it doesn't hurt to see wrestlers, even intense ones (Continued on page 62)

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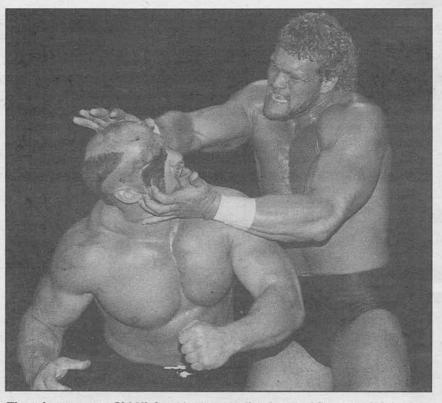
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CAPSULE PRØFILE

SID VICIOUS

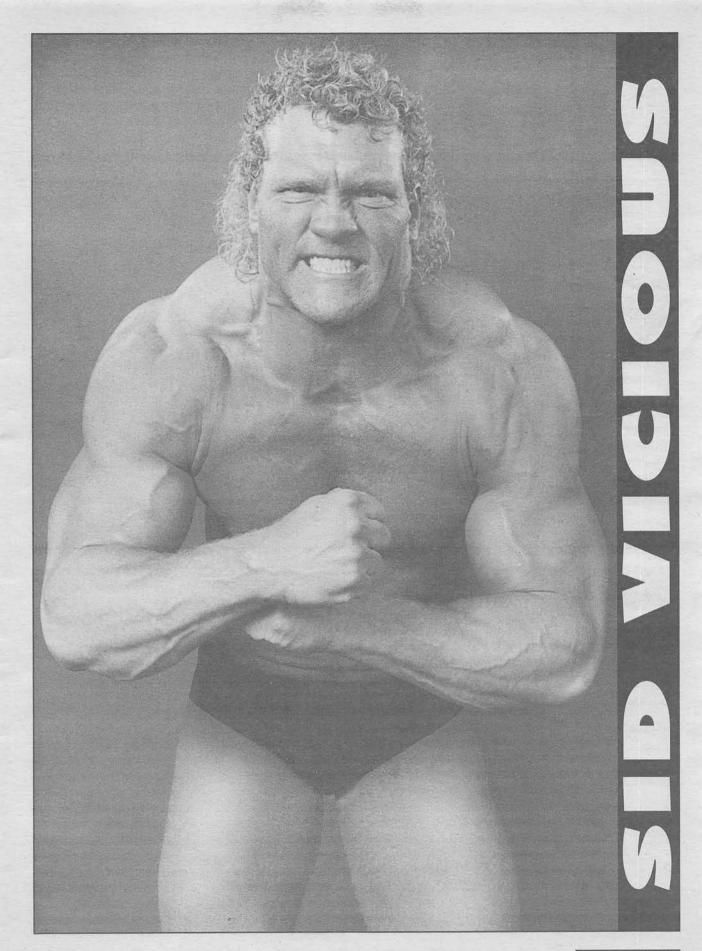
HE LATEST COMEBACK for Sid Vicious has started out well; he claimed the USWA heavyweight title without having to wrestle a single match ... Given the belt by forfeit after he chokeslammed then-champ Jerry Lawler at a TV taping ... Lawler suffered a concussion and couldn't make his scheduled bout with Sid ("Lawler's not 'The King' in Memphis. I am!") ... The 6'8", 318-pound West Memphis, Arkansas, native made his pro debut in Memphis in 1987, teaming with Austin Idol against Lawler and Nick Bockwinkel ... Soon hired Downtown Bruno (a.k.a. Harvey Wippleman) as his manager and then entered CWF as Lord Humongous ... Joined Robert Fuller's Stud Stable in the CWA in 1988, gaining notoriety by hospitalizing several wrestlers ("Get in my way, and you pay with broken bones!") ... Won the CWA title from Brian Lee and was called "the most awesome man I've ever wrestled" by Kerry Von Erich ("He was right!") ... Entered the NWA in 1989 after a brief stint in Japan ... Teamed with Dan Spivey as The Skyscrapers, under Teddy Long's guidance ("I carried that team") ... They were compared to The Road Warriors, but never captured the World tag team title ... Long replaced him with Mark Callous when Vicious missed time with a punctured lung ... Returned to action in 1990 as a member of The Four Horsemen ("I should have known I was too good to waste my time with the Horsemen") ... Was involved in the famed Halloween Havoc '90 plot to pin fellow Horseman Barry Windham, who



Though some say Sid Vicious has never lived up to his potential, he has always caused plenty of pain for every opponent he's faced. Road Warrior Hawk found that out when he encountered the sadistic Sid.

was disguised as NWA World champion ... The real Sting eventually appeared and pinned Sid ("I realized then that the Horsemen lacked confidence in me") ... Ended his first WCW stint after splitting with the Horsemen and suffering a humiliating stretcher match loss to El Gigante ... Debuted in the WWF as Sid Justice ... Wrestled as a fan favorite, dominating matches against The Undertaker ("After I destroyed him, he never rested in peace!") ... Eliminated Hulk Hogan from the 1992 Royal Rumble to crown a World champion, but was the last man eliminated by Ric Flair, the winner ... Turned against Hogan after learning the "Hulkster," not he, would face Flair at WrestleMania VIII ("It was a conspiracy against

me!") ... Randy Savage ended up getting the title shot; Hogan defeated Sid by disqualification at WrestleMania ("I didn't care about winning. I just wanted to break him in two!") ... Soon left the federation, returning to WCW in 1993 under the management of Col. Robert Parker ... Began teaming with Big Van Vader, but with Vicious struggling against the likes of Sting, the two power-bombers became enemies ("I could beat Vader any time, any place!") ... Was slated to face Vader for the World title at Starrcade '93, but left WCW after a hotel room brawl with Arn Anderson in England ... Many still think he hasn't reached his potential ("Sid Vicious will rule wrestling, just wait!").



Where Are They NOW

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



PAMPERO FIRPO

The "Wild Bull Of The Pampas" was among the most feared wrestlers of his day, famed for his slogan, "Kill, murder, and destroy." A 1960s star especially popular on the East Coast and in Detroit, the Argentine native is now employed by the Postal Service in

California. "I make sure the mail goes through," he says. "I take no guff from letter carriers. Some of the dogs they see on their rounds are intimidating, but they've got nothing on me!"



ANGELO POFFO

Best known today as the father of Randy Savage and Lanny Poffo, Angelo was a fine wrestler in his own right, winning several titles in the late-1950s. He once set a world record by doing 6,033 situps in 4 hours 10 minutes and was even an intercollegiate chess

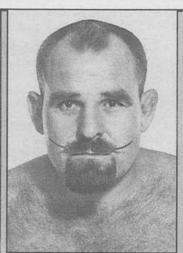
champion at DePaul. A former promoter, Angelo now lives in Largo, Florida, where he takes it easy and plays the stock market. "Why not?" he says. "I've earned it."



EDDIE SHARKEY

This Minnesotan—a former amateur boxer—had some success as a wrestler, but is better known as a teacher. He has instructed stars such as Jesse Ventura, Bob Backlund, The Road Warriors, and Rick Rude. Sharkey has become a promoter in recent

years, running Twin Cities-based Pro Wrestling America. "We're keeping the Minnesota wrestling tradition alive," he notes. Eddie also collects antiques and reads extensively about the Civil War.



KARL VON HESS

Hess was one of the most hated wrestlers on the East Coast during the 1950s, and his tag team partners included Skull Murphy and Kurt von Poppenheim. Von Hess, who was also a boxer and rodeo rider, lives near Atlantic City, New Jersey, with

his wife, Lenora. Karl is proud of his grandson Eric von Hess, an accomplished downhill skier who may make the U.S. Olympic Team in 1998. "It's obvious that toughness runs in the family!" he says.

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NEWS FROM THE WR

KIEL, GERMANY BY HERMANN HENRICH



CRUSH VS. LEX LUGER



More than 6,000 fans jammed the Ostseehalle to watch these WWF rivals go at it. Luger, who got the louder cheers, initially traded punches with Crush. However, once the Hawaiian caught Luger in a bearbug, he refused to let go. That lasted for approximately eight minutes, save for a brief offensive flurry by Luger. Eventually, Lex managed to come out of the hold for good and soon collected the pin with a rollup. He immediately left the arena and did not even do his customary posing routine.

OTHER BOUTS: Razor Ramon defeated Intercontinental champion Diesel (with Shawn Michaels) by disqualification ... World Women's champion Alundra Blayze pinned Luna Vachon with a German suplex ... Mabel (with Oscar) pinned Bam Bam Bigelow ... The Smokin' Gunns beat The Rock 'n' Roll Express ... Jeff Jarrett pinned Doink the Clown (with Dink) ... Sparky Pluga pinned Adam Bomb.

SAVANNAH, GA BY ANDREW TILTON



STING VS. STEVE AUSTIN



Col. Robert Parker no longer accompanies Austin to the ring, but the manager made an exception for this one match and the U.S. champion is glad that he did. Austin had a good, intense battle against Sting, pleasing the crowd of 2,200. However, Sting took command and appeared to have Austin finished off with his famed "scorpion deathlock." It was then that Parker entered the ring and broke up the maneuver, leaving the referee little choice than to rule Sting the winner by disqualification.

OTHER BOUTS: World champion Ric Flair pinned Rick Steamboat with his feet on the ropes for leverage ... World tag team champions Cactus Jack & Kevin Sullivan beat The Nasty Boys by disqualification in a non-title match ... Dustin Rhodes beat Bunkhouse Buck (managed by Parker) in a bullrope match when Parker's interference backfired ... Arn Anderson battled Brian Pillman to a 15-minute draw.

JOHNSON CITY, TN BY RON DONNELLY



TONY ANTHONY
VS.
CHRIS CANDIDO

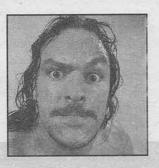


Anthony was supposed to defend his Smoky Mountain championship against Jake Roberts in a cage match, but "The Snake" never showed up. Consequently, the fans at Freedom Hall were asked to pick a replacement, and they chose Candido. The "Dirty White Boy" took command early on, with Candido occasionally trying to get out of the cage. He rallied, attempted a splash off the top of the cage, but failed when Anthony rolled out of the way. Brian Lee handed a loaded glove to Candido, but Anthony evaded the punch and nailed his rival with a chain and got the pin. Lee and Candido began arguing, with Tammy Fytch preventing them from coming to blows.

OTHER BOUTS: Tracey Smothers beat Bruiser
Bedlam in a dockfight match ... SMW tag team champions Brian Lee & Chris Candido defeated Scott & Steve
Armstrong ... The Thrillseekers beat Well Dunn ...
Anthony Michaels pinned Steve Skyfire.

ESTLING CAPITALS

YONKERS, NY BY BLAINE POMEROY



SABU VS. TERRY FUNK



Eastern Championship Wrestling made its Westchester County debut at the Yonkers Raceway Arena, and the highlight of the card was the continuation of Sabu's incredible rivalry with Funk. The 50-year-old Texan DDT'd Sabu onto the cement floor, but Sabu rallied. He leaped off a chair and kicked Funk, who was standing at the top turnbuckle. Later, both spilled out of the ring, and the press table collapsed when Funk piledrived Sabu onto it. Again Sabu rallied, reversed a piledrive attempt, and earned the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: ECW tag team champions Public Enemy defeated The Bruise Brothers ... Tommy Dreamer beat ECW heavyweight champion Shane Douglas by disqualification ... Tasmaniac pinned Pit Bull Psycho Mike ... Tommy Cairo pinned The Sandman... ECW TV champion Mikey Whipwreck beat 911 (managed by Paul E. Dangerously) by DQ ... Bodyguard for Hire pinned Damian Stone.

FAYETTEVILLE, NC BY TARA KIMREY



RAZOR RAMON VS. THE BARBARIAN



This match was supposed to have pitted Ramon against his arch-rival, Diesel, but the Intercontinental champion was sidelined with a groin injury and was replaced by The Barbarian. While the crowd of 1,500 at the Cumberland County Arena was disappointed, Barbarian did reasonably well as a fill-in. He even threw Ramon outside the ring, bodyslammed him, and later put him in a bearhug for nearly five minutes. Ramon escaped the hold and brawled for several minutes before finally pinning Barbarian with an inside cradle.

OTHER BOUTS: WWF World tag team champions
The Headshrinkers defeated The Quebecers ... Mabel
(with Oscar) beat Lanny Poffo (substituting for Bam
Bam Bigelow) ... The Smokin' Gunns defeated The
Executioners ... Duke "The Dumpster" Droese beat
Adam Bomb ... Nikolai Volkoff defeated Sparky
Plugg, using the ropes for leverage.

ALBUQUERQUE, NM BY JIM WOLF

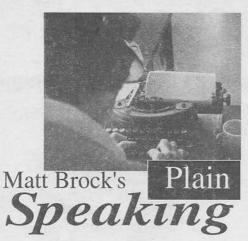


LORD STEVEN REGAL VS. JOHNNY B. BADD



Regal's WCW TV title was not on the line here, but one would never have known it from the British star's aggressiveness. Regal dominated the action in this match at the Tingley Coliseum, and apparently posted a pin. However, Regal's feet were on the ropes, and Badd successfully protested to have the match restarted. Once it did, Johnny B. was in command all the way, quickly rolling up Lord Steven for a small package and three-count at the 13-minute mark.

OTHER BOUTS: Sting (wearing a patch over his right eye) pinned U.S. champion Steve Austin in a non-title match ... Dustin Rhodes & Arn Anderson beat Bunkhouse Buck & Amarillo Slim (with Col. Robert Parker) when Rhodes pinned Slim ... Marcus Alexander Bagwell & The Patriot defeated Paul Orndorff & Paul Roma when Patriot pinned Roma ... The Guardian Angel pinned Ron Simmons ... Brian Pillman pinned Diamond Dallas Page.



Harder than nails,
veteran wrestling
reporter Matt Brock
has logged more
miles covering
wrestling than any
other journalist.
Every month Matt will
travel to the sport's
hotbeds, reporting
everything he sees
without fear or favor

ulk Hogan was cheered and Ric Flair was booed at WCW's Bash at the Beach, but I think Dave Rosenbaum, who lives in

Florida and ought to know, solved this mystery. Orlando isn't necessarily WCW territory, even if it's below the Mason-Dixon line. It's a neutral site. The WWF holds cards here at the Orlando Arena; so does WCW.

Since there are as many displaced Northerners in Orlando as native Southerners, it was no surprise

that Hogan was the crowd favorite here. Rosenbaum was right about

this, too: Let's see what happens when action moves to the Carolinas or Georgia, rock-solid Flair country. Then Hogan will have to deal with something he hasn't seen since his Fred Blassie days: a crowd that hates him. As for Bash at the Beach, Hogan looked anything but rusty and wrestled the best match of his career. Flair wasn't sharp and I think having Sherri Martel at ringside was a mistake. Too much of a distraction. Instead of counting on his ability, Flair counted on Sherri to get him by, and he never focused completely on the match. Now he's an ex-champ, and anyone'll tell you that's when Flair's at his best. My guess is that Hogan and Flair will be trading the title for a while and all other contenders will have to take a



VINCE McMAHON

backseat. A suggestion for Hogan: Wrestle on an arena card one day, big man. Maybe then your peers will respect you.

You'd think a federal prosecutor would have better things to do with his time and the tax-payers' money than go after a wrestling promoter whose only alleged crime was distributing a drug that many people think shouldn't even be illegal. Well, you'd be wrong, and I'd be wrong, and the whole damn world would be wrong. With all the real drug dealers, murderers, and rapists out on the

streets-and in our governmentthe Vince McMahon trial was a complete waste of time and money and another embarrassment for the federal prosecutor's office, which went to great expense to nail McMahon and missed by a wide margin. Rumor has it that the only reason the jury took as long as it did to come back with a not guilty verdict was that they were busy watching the tape of WrestleMania X. All the government had to show for itself was a biased witness who had already received all kinds of favors and had no incentive but to tell whatever truth fit him. Two of the three counts against McMahon were thrown out midway through the trial; the other was a sham. Good job, Fed. Meanwhile, the wrestling bashers in the mainstream media who were dying to see McMahon strung up and hung went home complaining about how good ol' Vince slipped out of another tight situation. Wrong. McMahon's only crimes are against the sport of wrestling. Unfortunately, people don't go to jail for that.

winning isn't necessarily winning when the reward is a shot at USWA heavy-weight champ Sid Vicious. Big Sid's on a roll these days and the only

thing that can stop him now is a reunion with Harvey Wippleman. Jeff Gaylord won a 10-man tag team elimination match and got a shot at Vicious the same night. Sid

won easily, pinning the former champion. Sid looks good, well-rested and refreshed, but I'm waiting to see how he performs after a few months in the fold and when the pressure builds up. Jerry Lawler's in this federation, too, you know, and Lawler's never settled for being anything less than the number-one star in Memphis. He won't settle now. This puts Sid into a situation where he should beat

Lawler, because he's bigger and stronger, but might not because

Lawler's smarter and more experienced. In any case, we'll know all we need to know about Vicious in a few months. If he loses to Lawler, then he's failed another test. If he beats Lawler, he's proven himself all over again. Never underestimate the meaning of beating Lawler in Memphis.

ever cease to amazed when American wrestlers come over here and beat Japan's best on their own soil. It doesn't happen too often, but when it does, it's notable, and when it does, Steve "Dr. Death" Williams is usually doing the beating. Doc did it again here, beating Mitsuharu Misawa for the All-Japan International, All-Japan United National, and Pacific Wrestling Federation

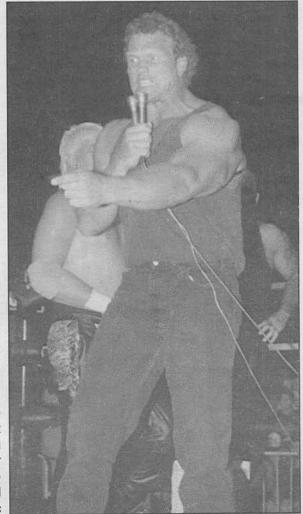
titles. They're known collectively as the Triple Crown, and the list of previous winners includes Jumbo Tsuruta, Stan Hansen, Genichiro Tenryu, Terry Gordy, and Misawa.

That's quite an impressive list and Doc's now in impressive company. You wouldn't have known it afterward, though. Doc's all business, and he didn't even crack a smile in the dressing room. "No surprise," he said. "I always expect to win." For those who care about these things, Williams deserves a place in the Wrestling Hall of Fame when his career is over. The way he's going,

TOKYO, JAPAN

that might not occur for quite some

MEMPHIS, TN



SID VICIOUS

25

- lan & Axl Rotten:

WRESTLING, WE'D BE ON DEATH ROW!

Photos by Jason Ross Lavin

26

INSIDE WRESTLING

By Eddie Ellner

OLICE REPORT: AT 11:30 a.m. a fight broke out at 213 Drevin Rd., Newcastle. Mrs. Ethan Rotten called the police at 11:45. Officers Miller and Williams arrived on the scene at 12:04. Officer Miller attempted to restrain Mr. Axl Rotten, defendant, from further punching Ethan Rotten, the defendant's father, by clubbing Axl over his head with his nightstick. When Axl failed to succumb to the repeated blows, Officer Williams used his taser gun, on full stun, to finally subdue him. Officers proceeded upstairs, where they found Ian Rotten slapping his mother over late payment of money defendant said was owed to him. Both brothers were arrested and released two days later when parents refused to press charges.

That, really, is all you need to know about ECW tag team Bad Breed.

They beat up their mother because she couldn't repay a debt. When their father tried to intervene, they beat him up, too. Axl and lan Rotten are the neighborhood bullies from hell.

"We weren't that bad," smiles Ian through crooked teeth. "We didn't bury cats in the ground and run them over with lawnmowers, or put dogs in dryers like other bullies."

"No we didn't.
We like animals,"
smiles Axl. "We did that to the
neighborhood kids."

You get the feeling that at any moment one of the two might lash out with a backhand, just to hear the sound of lacerated flesh. Terry Funk had that feeling, too. That's why he hired the Rottens as his ECW bodyguards.

"Y'all know how long I've been around," Funk says, "and I thought

For ECW tag teams, here's a close encounter of the worst kind: Axl Rotten clotheslining Rockin' Rebel during a recent card in Philadelphia. This is really in-your-face wrestling!

these boys, Axl and lan, are from another dimension in time. They're like videogame bandits, ones that'll cut your head off and drink your blood."

It got so Funk was frightened to be alone with his own bodyquards.

"I'm telling you it's true," he agreed. "We'd be playing cards in

land, where frustration, unemployment, and depression were constant atmospheric conditions. "Very few people worked where we come from," Axl remembers. "We always got work as bouncers, so we always had a few bucks in our pockets. But there was no hope. Everyone fought every

night. It was a way of life. There were neo-Nazis, punk gangs, every sort of violence you could want could be had in our hometown. And we were the baddest kids in the land. Everyone was scared of us, but everyone also

wanted us dead. If we didn't get into wrestling, I swear we'd be on death row!"

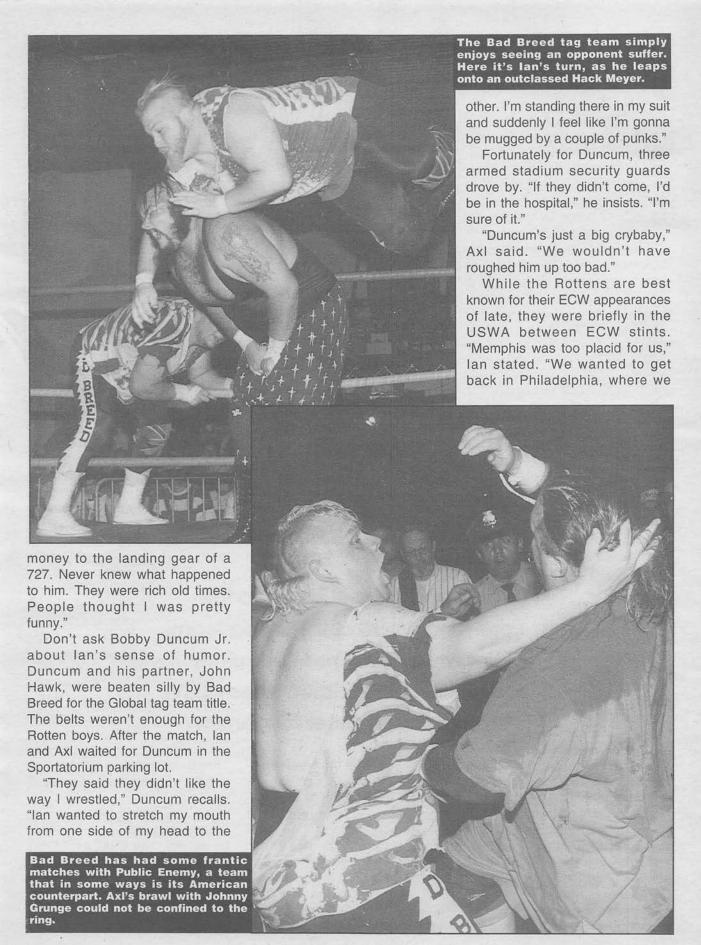
Ian has a different memory. "Those were the good ol' days," he laughs. "You could walk into a pub and without a word smash some bloke over the head with a beer stein. I remember smiling a lot in those days. I remember I hung one kid who owed me

lan and Axl are Rotten to the core—and proud of it. This tag team, known as Bad Breed, regularly proves its mettle to bloodthirsty ECW fans through sheer toughness

a hotel and I got the creepy feeling they'd just as soon use my head for a soccer ball. I was paying them good money, but the only peace of mind I got was when we were in the ring. When things got boring on the road, they wanted to fight. It's in their blood."

Things were always boring for Axl and lan growing up in lowerclass slums of Newcastle, Eng-

27





INSIDE WRESTLING 2

Stop Laughing!



30

INSIDE WRESTLING

By Eddie Ellner

Since HULK HOGAN'S defection to WCW, it seems everyone has an opinion on how to boost fan interest in the WWF. Ideas range from the reasonable (lure Big Van Vader and Sting into the federation) to the bizarre (kidnap Jane Fonda and make her Ted DiBiase's valet).

None seems more ludicrous than the rumor that has newcomer Sparky Plugg getting a series of title shots—a rumor, according to one high-placed source, that is being seriously considered.

"Plugg has the highest Q-rating of any WWF newcomer in years," said the source, referring to Plugg's marketing recognition factor and growing popularity. "Since Bret Hart takes on all challengers, the thinking is that a Plugg-Hart title series would galvanize wrestling fans. The crossover between auto racing and pro wrestling is already substantial. Promoters feel they can tap into Plugg's demographic and sell thousands more seats if he's wrestling for a title."

But is the newcomer ready? Plugg shows extraordinary skills for someone of his relative inexperience. A recent match against Kwang the Ninja highlighted his strengths and weaknesses. While committing several rookie mistakes that a veteran champion like Hart would have pounced upon, Plugg showed dogged versatility and relentless drive. He won the match and had fans screaming out of their seats.

As with every promising rookie, one can't help wondering how he could do against a better opponent.

"It would be a major, devastat-

Sparky Plugg, one of the WWF's newcomers, controls Jeff Jarrett. Plugg has built a steady following over the past few months. Some claim his popularity may get him a shot at the World title despite his relative inexperience.

ing mistake, daddy," says Capt. Lou Albano. "I've seen thousands of wrestlers come and go and go and go, and maybe once a decade a rookie comes along who's title-ready, and if you throw him into the pressure cooker of championship matches, even if he has the skills, he might crack and never realize his potential."

Albano notes Plugg has had matches against Bam Bam Bigelow and The Undertaker (probably Ted DiBiase's ersatz version)—and lost them all. "If Plugg wants a title shot, daddy, let him beat a contender first. Hey, you don't go from rookie league to Yankee Stadium overnight. Just ask Michael Jordan."

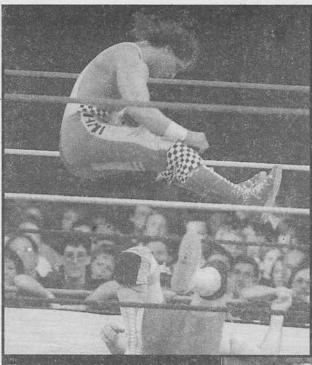
Tires Lanigan, one of Plugg's stock-car colleagues, scoffs at the notion of Plugg unable to withstand pressure.

"Let me say one thing off the

Sparky Plugg
has yet to cross
the checkered flag
into serious WWF
title contention.
Even so, a strange
combination of
factors may put
him in the driver's
seat for a match
against World
champion Bret
Hart!



31



fine wrestler, but he is at least a year away from deserving—or surviving—a title match against Bret Hart."

"There's panic in the federation"

Plugg has shown

himself to be a

"There's panic in the federation," said former WWF analyst Jesse Ventura. "Putting a green autohound into a wrestling ring for the world championship is a bad idea. Can't they come up with anything better?"

It's not just a question of ethics and timing. It may be a violation of law, according to Angelo Wiseman, legal counsel for many professional athletes.

"If Plugg got a title shot, the federation would be hit by 15 lawsuits [not coincidentally, the number of WWF wrestlers rated ahead of Plugg]. You can't just hand out

Plugg's shown his athletic ability as a race-car driver. Here he makes it evident to wrestling fans by dropping onto Duane Gill at a WWF TV taping.

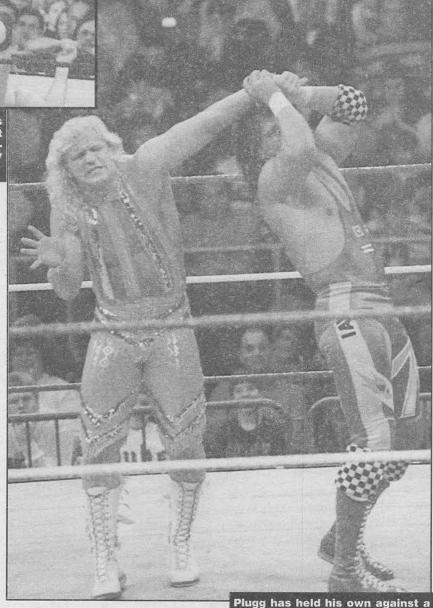
top," said Lanigan. "Without ever seeing Sparky Plugg wrestle, I know he could fight for the championship right now. I have seen him in bar brawls and track skirmishes, so I know he's got the physical tools. But I've also seen him cut inside the leader on a hot curve at 190 miles per hour without breaking a sweat.

"That boy has ice blood in his veins and a computer between his ears. He's the toughest competitor I've ever known. If he puts his mind into wrestling, we'll drop the flag half-mast at the practice oval, 'cause racing would lose one of its finest athletes."

Splitting time between the ring and the racetrack made it impossible to pin Plugg down for comment. "He's always on the run," said a WWF official.

But most of wrestling's cognoscenti disagree with Lanigan's analysis.

"I don't think Lanigan would send a rookie into the Daytona 500," said Thomas Pilliard. "Yes,



title matches like cotton candy. There's a rating system and a merit system and contracts that guarantee the top wrestlers their rightful title shots."

Which may be the problem in the first place. The WWF needs to shake up its talent pool, and there is no better place to start than from the bottom up. Giving Plugg or another promising newcomer a chance at the World title may be just the thing needed to help spark (pun intended) fan interest.

A title lottery is another reasonable suggestion. Why not let Hart, the man who faces all comers, pick a name out of a hat once a month? Whomever is selected gets one crack at the crown. It was exactly that type of lottery that gave Ron Simmons a shot against Big Van Vader in Baltimore in August 1992-and a WCW World title victory.

"I still think Plugg should get a see him try."



Capt. Lou Albano, Plugg (shown flipping Gill) isn't yet ready for a title shot, and says it could hurt him in the long run.

higher-ranked contenders.

HULK HOGAN

scored the greatest victory of his fabled career when he beat **RIC FLAIR** for the WCW World title Bash at the Beach.

HOGAN caught the wave and "HULKAMANIA".

came crashing down on the "NATURE BOU"!

By Dave Rosenbaum

F THE BASH at the Beach really had been held at the beach, Hulk Hogan would have rushed out of Orlando Arena, pulled on his body suit, and celebrated by taking a dive into the warm waters of the Atlantic Ocean.

Victory felt that good.

"Let me tell you, brother, that was the greatest feeling I've ever had," Hogan said. "It was exhilarating! Right then and there, I felt like sharing it will the millions of 'Hulkamaniacs' who made it possible. This was my greatest victory,

Hogan's win over Flair for the WCW World heavyweight title at Bash at the Beach may have been

ever!"

the most sensational victory ever by any wrestler. In his first match in WCW—the federation Flair has made his own over much of the past 15 yearse—Hogan pinned Flair cleanly in the middle of the ring. Even more remarkable, Hogan did so after Sherri Martel blatantly interfered several times on Flair's behalf.

The victory, at 21:53, gave Hogan his sixth world title, his first in WCW. And it made for a scenario that would have been unthinkable a few years ago:

Hogan is the king of WCW, Flair is his pawn.

Flair's arrogance was squashed by Hogan's confidence and persistence. Fueled by the power of his "Hulkamaniacs"—yes, they're even in WCW now—Hogan took us back to the mid-1980s, when his mere presence was enough to

"Everything that was old is new again, brother!" Hogan exclaimed afterward, putting his win in perfect perspective. "'Hulkamania's' running more powerfully than it's ever been!"

fill buildings and excite fans.

And Flair is stalling, gagging on the fumes the "Hulkamania" bandwagon left behind as it sped into the Florida sun. Flair's loss was his worst nightmare, a public flogging. Welcome to WCW "Hulkamania," brother: Hulk Hogan prepares to send Ric Flair into the turnbuckle as a capacity crowd looks on. Hogan won the World title in his federation debut.

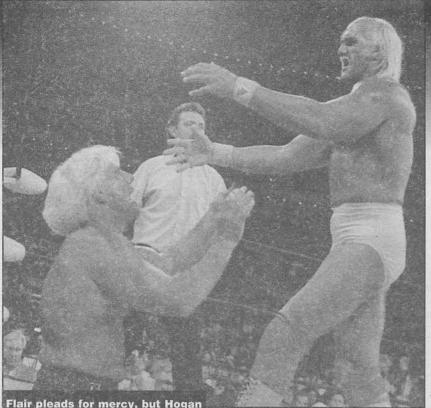
"What has to concern Flair the most is that Hogan beat him so cleanly despite all that happened in the match," said WCW's colorful commentator Jesse Ventura. "Ric's going to have to get over that. But I have no doubt that he will, because Ric has overcome worse situations. The trick now for Hogan is to not get too relaxed."

Hogan relax? That's unlikely. But what *could* hurt Hogan is that he plans on maintaining a light title-defense schedule, and could appear only on pay-per-views and Clash of the Champions cards. Flair has already called on WCW officials to enforce the 30-day title-defense clause in anticipation that Hogan won't be a working champion.

Flair, however, has his pride, and it's unlikely he wants to get back the title because of an administrative decision. He wants to pin Hogan, just like Hogan pinned him.

"It will happen," Flair asserted. "Nobody's ever pinned me twice in

Flair tried to take the initiative in the bout, but neither Flair's intelligence nor Sherri Martel's interference could prevent Hogan from capturing his sixth world title.



Flair pleads for mercy, but Hogan will have none of it. While these veteran stars had met several times in the WWF, none of those matches had the exposure or significance of this Bash at the Beach pay-per-view.

a row, and it's not going to happen now. Let's see how Hogan handles it when the heat's really on. Now he has to defend the title."

The encore is important. Before getting too impressed over Hogan beating Flair in the "Nature Boy's" federation, realize that Orlando isn't necessarily WCW territory. Sure, it was a WCW card, but the WWF has an equal stake to Orlando and most of Florida. After all, many Floridians are originally from the Northeast, where the WWF reigns supreme. In many ways, Orlando is home turf for Hogan.

It would have been another story had Hogan beat Flair in Atlanta or the Carolinas. That would have been like the gladiator beating the lion in the jungle instead of the Roman Coliseum.

Indeed, except for pockets of

fans scattered here and there, Orlando Arena belonged to Hogan. An eardrum-shattering roar filled the building when Hogan made his entrance, and got even louder after he won the title. Flair was booed. Sherri was chastised. Hogan crashed Flair's party and started one of his own.

It wouldn't be that way at Charlotte Coliseum or The Omni. Those places belong to Flair. And, according to a recent *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* survey, WCW remains Flair country.

"I'll admit, the crowd caught me a little off-guard, but I'm not making any excuses," Flair said. "Hogan, you had your night, but let's see you do what nobody else could: Defend that belt when Ric Flair's in the building. Your biggest problem is that this time, I'm not leaving town."

Flair's biggest problem is that he hasn't proven to anyone that he can beat Hogan, even with Sherri's almost constant interference. With 4:25 gone in the Orlando bout,

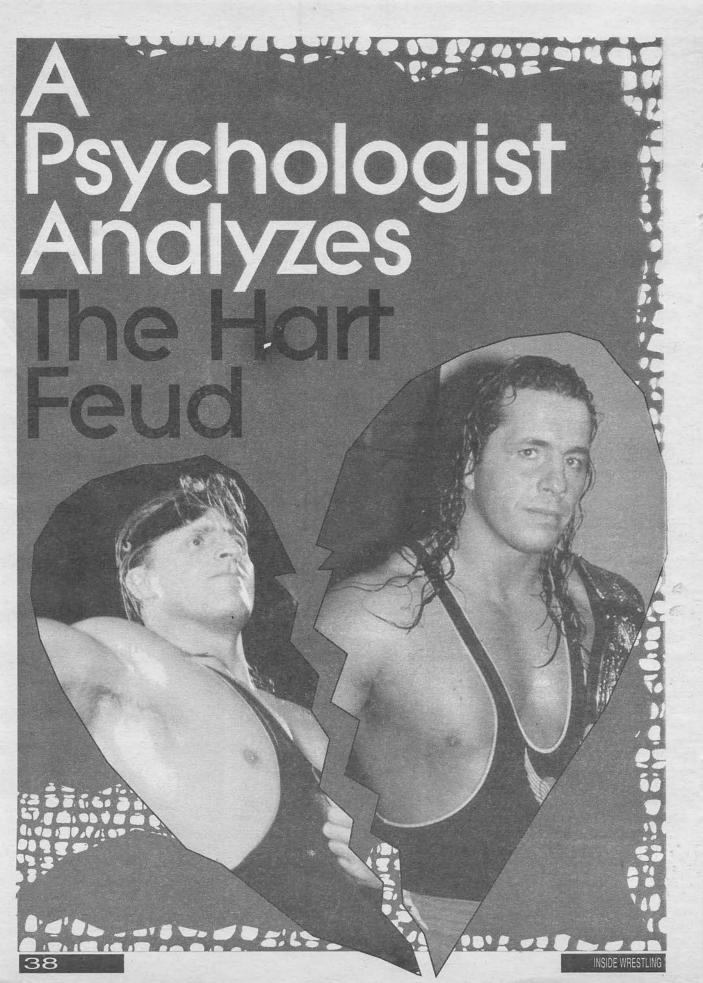
Flair hid behind Sherri after getting booted out of the ring. Minutes later, she tried to hit Hogan with a chair. She pulled referee Randy Anderson out of the ring as he was counting an apparent pinfall by Hogan. She choked, punched, and kicked the "Hulkster."

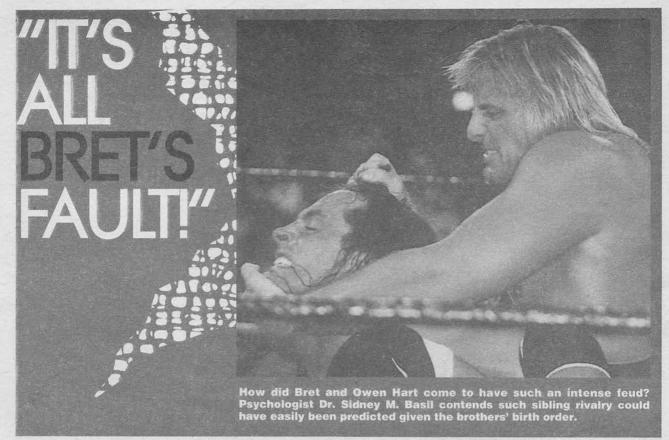
And Flair still lost. Hogan was in paradise when the night ended. Flair was in the deepest depression imaginable.

And that spells trouble for "Slick" Ric.

Hogan took the battle to the

"Nature Boy," despite the involvement of Sherri (prone on the mat), who wasn't able to help her man Flair maintain his hold on the World title.





[Editor's note: Sidney M. Basil, Ph.D, is a noted sports psychologist and frequent contributor and consultant to INSIDE WRESTLING and its sister publications. His work has appeared in some of the finest psychological journals in the world and he is often called upon to privately counsel professional athletes.

In a recent thesis, Dr. Basil wrote that he prefers studying professional wrestlers "because of the unique situations they find themselves in, the various economic strata of the athletes themselves, and the unique interplay between participant and observer. In addition, I know of no other sport in which there are so many second- and third-generation participants and brother-brother situations."

With that final comment in mind, we asked Dr. Basil to analyze the incredible feud between WWF World champion Bret Hart and his brother Owen Hart. We weren't surprised when Dr. Basil informed us he already had a lengthy file on the War Between the Harts.]

By Dr. Sidney M. Basil

A LTHOUGH ADMITTEDLY THE intensity of the battle is startling, very few parents or siblings can be completely surprised by the current WWF feud between Bret Hart and his younger brother, Owen.

To those not familiar with the workings of psychology, this unfortunate feud seems like a simple matter of jealousy directed by one sibling toward the other. Of course, sibling rivalry is as much a part of the human condition as, say, aging or disease.

But this is not simply a matter of jealousy. In order for us to accurately analyze the Hart feud, we must understand something referred to in psychoanalysis as "The Middle Child Syndrome."

Actually, it is one of the more easily understood elements of psychology. For our example, let's examine the three children of a traditional mother and father.

In most cases, the oldest child is the most responsible and most

caring. He sees himself as the overseer of the family and, at times, the one responsible for keeping it together in times of crisis. And, of course, throughout history, the first-born has been seen as the "most valuable" child. The first born in a royal family, of course, becomes the King or Queen.

The youngest child is often referred to by his parents as "the baby," and in many cases the baby remains a baby long after he reaches adulthood. Often, he's the least responsible. He's used to having everything his way because he has never had to fight with a younger sibling for his parents' attention. Some people feel that the most interesting—and potentially most explosive—adult relationships occur when the man and the woman are both youngest siblings.

As you can see, this puts the middle child in a most unusual situation. He is neither the honored first-born nor the baby. Actually,



he was the baby for a while, until the third child came along. Then he was given a natural rival for his parents' attention.

And he will always fight for that attention. It has been said that the middle child, while often the most distant from his parents and family, is also the hardest-working. Things were never handed to him on the proverbial silver platter.

Now let's apply these theories to the Hart family. Bret was the seventh of eight children. For six years, he was the baby. But then Helen Hart gave birth to Owen, and Bret was put into a pseudomiddle child situation, along with Bruce, Keith, Wayne, and Ellie.

This is where Bret got his work ethic. In a family of eight children, a middle boy has to work hard to get attention. Bret developed a tremendous sense of responsibility, which eventually helped him become WWF World champion.

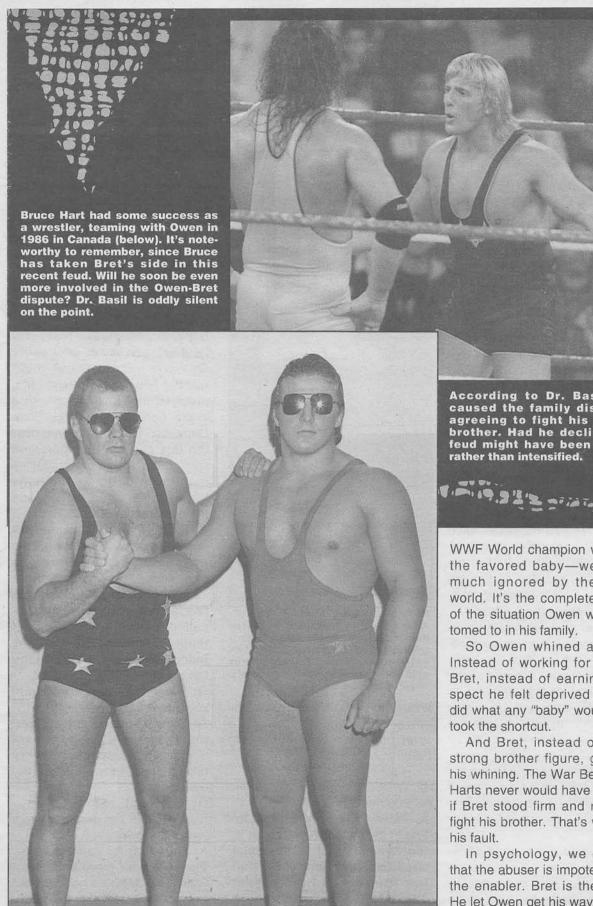
Then there's Owen, the baby. He's still the baby, even now at 29 years of age. He was born into a favored position in the Hart family. Stu and Helen Hart have often remarked that "Owen made us young again." That's a common remark from parents about their

youngest child.

Owen is used to being the center of attention and having everything handed to him. And that's why his professional wrestling career posed a problem he didn't know how to deal with.

You see, Owen is not used to dealing with adversity. He expects everything to turn out right. Of course, he was given tremendous athletic ability. Unfortunately, he has never been a hard worker.

To Owen, it is simply unacceptable that Bret—a middle child became one of the most famous wrestlers in the world and the



According to Dr. Basil, Bret caused the family dispute by agreeing to fight his younger brother. Had he declined, the feud might have been defused rather than intensified.

WWF World champion while hethe favored baby-went pretty much ignored by the outside world. It's the complete opposite of the situation Owen was accustomed to in his family.

So Owen whined and cried. Instead of working for a shot at Bret, instead of earning the respect he felt deprived of, Owen did what any "baby" would do: He took the shortcut.

And Bret, instead of being a strong brother figure, gave in to his whining. The War Between the Harts never would have happened if Bret stood firm and refused to fight his brother. That's why it's all his fault.

In psychology, we often say that the abuser is impotent without the enabler. Bret is the enabler. He let Owen get his way.



DONN E. ALLEN

"I'M SO PROUD TO BE LAST IN THE 'PWI 500'"

Photos by Jason Ross Lavin

HE MAN RATED last in Pro Wrestling Illustrated's annual survey of the top 500 wrestlers could react in one of two ways. He could go off the deep end and criticize those who gave him such a lowly status. Or he could be grateful to be ranked at all.

Fortunately for our sister magazine, "Devious" Donn E. Allen prefers to see his glass as halffull, not half-empty. He is delighted to hold the anchor position on such a prestigious list.

And why not? The wiry Allen competes in Philadelphia-based Eastern Championship Wrestling. He rarely wins there, and in his losses he's regularly pummeled by some of ECW's toughest stars. How did he make the list, then?

"I marvel at the punishment he takes against such tough competition," said Senior Editor Bill Apter. "That he continues to wrestle after all he's been through testifies to his guts and determination. There really isn't much difference between him and [former ECW TV champion] Mikey Whipwreck, Editor V.J. Paterno. except Mikey got that one big break and lived off it for months. If Whipwreck's ranked, and he is, I felt Donn E. deserved similar treatment."

Allen found out he had made the list after he was summoned to INSIDE WRESTLING'S offices in Ambler, Pennsylvania, for a photo

Here's a typical shot of Donn E. Allen, getting throttled by Vladimir Koloff in 1993. Allen keeps taking his licks against ECW's talented roster, and that helped him gain the anchor spot in this year's "PWI 500."

shoot. He was delighted to get the news, and then sat down for a brief interview with Managing

Q: What does being ranked number 500 mean to you?

A: Plenty. I'm so proud to be last in the "PWI 500"! I mean it. too! You think of all the great wrestlers that appear on that list from the U.S., Canada, Japan, Mexico ... just being

here is a real honor that no one will ever be able to take away from me. To think I have something in common with Sabu, Bret Hart, Ric Flair, and Jushin Liger. Wow!

Q: You're aware that last year's number 500, The Garbage Man, parlayed that recognition into a WWF contract as Duke "The Dumpster" Droese. Are you hoping this can be your personal springboard? A lot of wrestlersmany with better reputations than you-wanted us to place them at number 500.

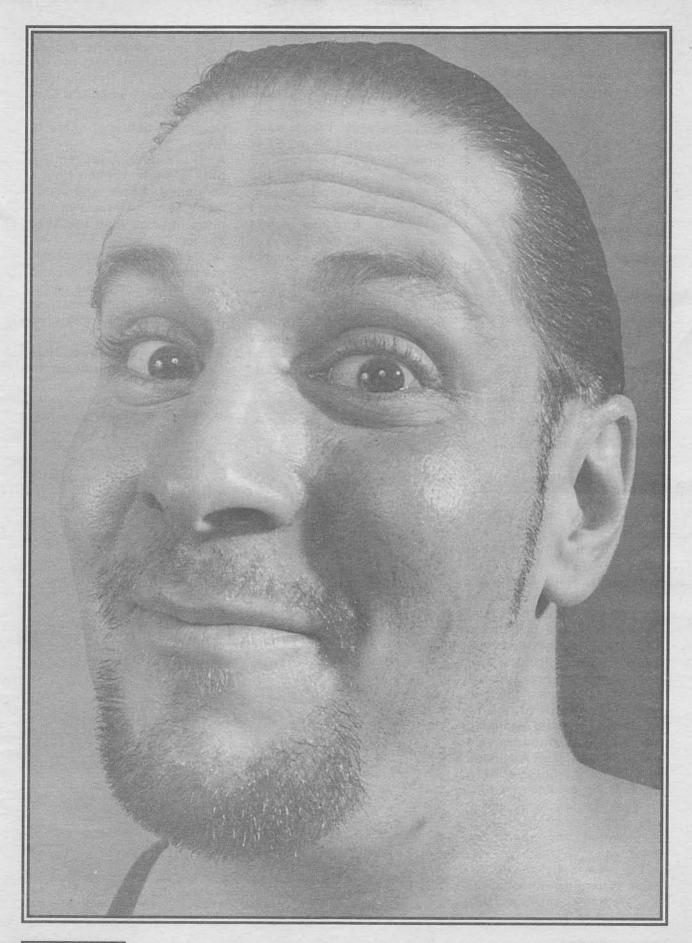
A: I just hope it helps me win some matches! It can't hurt me psychologically to have an opponent realize he's facing a ranked wrestler. Whether this leads to a spot with the socalled majors, I don't know. I think ECW is as tough as any federation, and I'm very happy here.

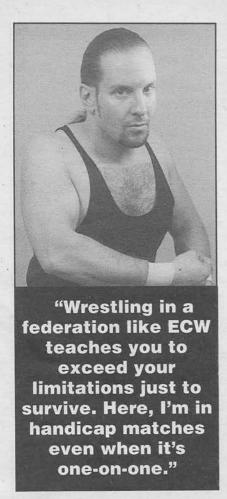
Q: Despite all the punishment vou take?

A: Sure. I love wrestling and the sense of accomplishment it gives me, especially every time I leave the ring under my own power.

Q: The track record for guys ranked 500th the past few years has been pretty good.

A: I know. But I can act better than Zeus, lift more trash than Garbage Man, and since I wrestle in ECW, I'm definitely





crazier than Morgus [the Maniac].

Q: How'd you get involved in wrestling?

A: I've loved it for years. As a kid, my friends even called me "Lou Albino" for my pale skin! My ring idols were Jack Brisco and Billy Robinson. I was good friends with Rockin' Rebel, and he brought me down to a card one night, then beat the hell out of me for about two hours. He wanted to see if I was serious. I came back the next week for more, like an idiot. (laughs) Am I masochistic, or what?

Q: If you liked wrestling so much and wanted to avoid much of the punishment, you could have managed.

A: I've done that. In the old Tri-State Wrestling Alliance, me and Woman co-managed D.C. Drake. Q: Did you like working with Woman?

A: Who wouldn't? I've also managed Abdullah the Butcher for a few bouts, one against Bam Bam Bigelow! But all the while, I really wanted to wrestle. When ECW formed in 1992, I sat on their doorstep waiting for the chance. They keep redepositing me on that doorstep, but I get back in. A regular glutton for punishment, that's me.

Q: Who's your toughest opponent been?

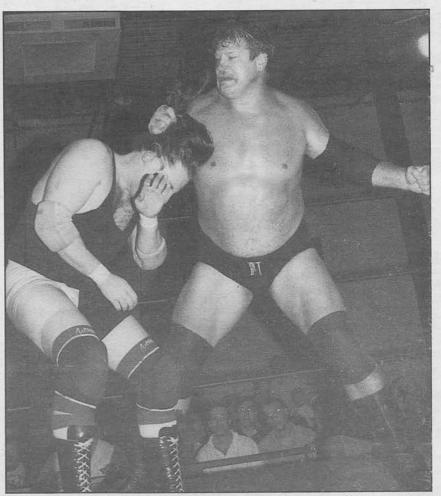
A: I've faced a lot of good ones: Road Warrior Hawk, Stan Hansen, the Koloffs, Mitsuhiro Matsunaga, Jimmy Snuka, Shane Douglas. It'd be hard to say. I will tell you this: Wrestling in a federation like ECW teaches you to exceed your limitations just to survive. Here, I'm in handicap matches even when it's oneon-one.

Q: You've had your share of hurts.

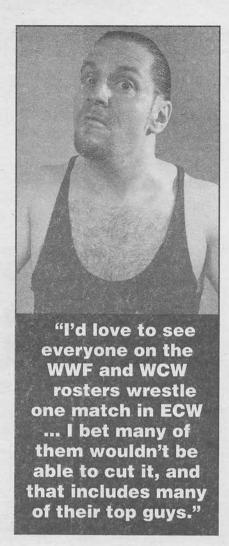
A: That's right. A broken leg, broken ankle, broken ribs, a scratched cornea, and many, many concussions. I've had more injuries than the 1994 Phillies!

Q: It's natural that many people see similarities between you and Mikey Whipwreck. Some people have said you both exhibit that deer-in-the-headlights look when you wrestle.

A: It's a two-way street. Here I've been plugging away for



Allen gets a lesson in toughness from Stan Hansen. While Allen has much to learn, he's not much different than Mikey Whipwreck, who was ECW TV champ for months despite having little talent.



five years, and this guy comes out of nowhere, with no visible talent, yet not only captures ECW's TV title, but keeps it match after match after match. Oh, I'd like to get him in the ring! I'd show him a thing or two. (pauses) And yet, I can't begrudge his success. I know the pain he puts up with. He's worked hard for what he's got. Q: You've taken part in several ECW TV tapings, where you wrestle two or three matches over several hours. That's not an easy life.

A: For me, those are the toughest cards. I do what I can against the competition, but they're awfully good. Otherwise, they wouldn't be in ECW. But you persevere, take your lumps, and promise to get

back at them one day. And I will.

Q: As a wrestler?

A: If I have anything to do with it, yes.

Q: ECW has been called the closest thing to anarchy in professional wrestling. How well do you get along with the fans?

A: Sometimes they ride me, but they ride everyone! So they don't bother me a bit, except when they call me "midget."

Q: Well, you are relatively small, at 5'10", 185 pounds. Don't you wish ECW had a light heavy-weight title?

A: It'd be nice to aim for, but since it doesn't exist, why worry about it? Winning a belt—any kind of belt—would be a thrill, but capturing a title isn't why I wrestle. It's because I love the sport and everything about it—the competition, the athleticism, the atmosphere. ECW fans like action and violence—you know the slogan, "It's not for everybody"—and they don't let you slack off at all.

Q: Here are the names of some ECW stars, and please give a brief comment on them. First, Sabu.

A: The man is the most exciting wrestler I've ever seen. He does so much and is so skilled. Amazing. No one who calls himself a pro wrestling fan should pass him up.

Q: Terry Funk.

A: Incredible! He's twice as old as I am and 10 times as rugged. The aging process apparently has no effect on him.

Q: Shane Douglas.

A: Doesn't let anything faze him. Arrogant, but with that ability, he has every right to be.

Q: Cactus Jack.

A: You began to see the real Jack when he took on Sabu in June. Now that he won't have

to second-guess himself in the ring in order to avoid the wrath of the suits in WCW, his genuine nature will take hold.

Q: It's great watching cards at ECW Arena. There's such an incredible atmosphere.

A: It's part of what makes us so tough. I'd love to see everyone on the WWF and WCW rosters wrestle one match in ECW, 'cause it's so different than the plush coliseums they're used to competing in. I bet many of them wouldn't be able to cut it, and that includes many of their top guys:

Q: How good a wrestler do you think you can become?

A: I'll keep on pushing, and one day I'll knock the door down. I'm continuing to improve, though it may not be evident in my won-lost record. I'm aiming to rise a lot higher in next year's "PWI 500"!

Q: How much higher?

A: Oh, to about number 480 or so.



Allen no doubt would agree that Don Muraco is "magnificent" after the former WWF star lifts him high in the air. Nevertheless, Allen loves wrestling despite the punishment he regularly receives.

BANG!

WCW FINALLY GOT

CACTUS

By Andy Rodriguez

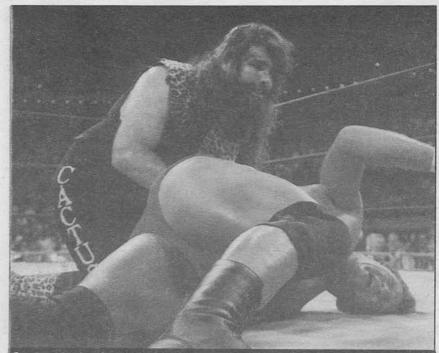
O MORE CHOICES, Cactus Jack thought. After Paul Orndorff and Paul Roma captured the WCW World tag team title from Cactus and Kevin Sullivan at Bash at the Beach, Jack didn't feel he had any other choice but to leave World Championship Wrestling.

"Hey, I'm no genius, but it's pretty obvious even to me that I'm

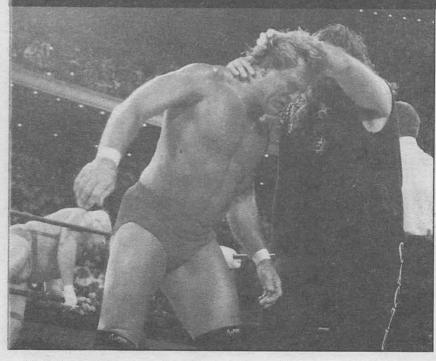
Cactus Jack has left WCW. He's ticked off because he thinks federation officials tried to force his departure. While there's no conclusive evidence of a conspiracy, many WCW officials are admittedly glad to see him go

not welcome around here anymore," said the gap-toothed grappler. "They were glad to see me lose the title, and they're glad to see me go. Hey, they got their wish! I'm outta here! Adios, amigos! That's all she wrote, pal!"

For months, Jack had been picking up vibes that the federation's top officials were becoming increasingly dismayed by his reckless ring style. They felt he was the main instigator in fostering an atmosphere of violence that definitely was not welcome.



Cactus Jack tried to torture Paul Orndorff all he could at Bash at the Beach, but it didn't keep Jack and Kevin Sullivan from losing the WCW World tag team belts to Orndorff and Paul Roma. Not long thereafter, Jack decided to leave WCW.



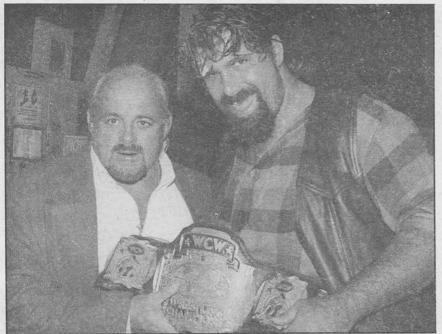
"Jack is a magnet for trouble," said a WCW vice-president.

When WCW conducted a Slamboree telephone poll asking fans whether Cactus should be banned, Jack became more convinced of the federation's intentions.

"They say they were just filling airtime," he scoffed. "Yeah, right.

C'mon, they were looking for an excuse to show me the door. Turns out most of the fans wanted me to stay."

Jack is right. In fact, 93.3 percent of the respondents to that poll voted to keep Cactus in WCW. That figure, by the way, was provided by WCW officials.



Sullivan is upset that the injured Jack was forced to take part in Bash at the Beach, though past WCW tag team champions have been allowed to substitute for an ailing competitor. He called the decision "completely unfair."

For Jack, though, the final straw came right before his and Sullivan's World title bout at the Bash. Claiming that Cactus was too injured to compete, Sullivan asked WCW if he could choose a substitute partner to take Jack's place. His request was denied.

"I don't care what problems Jack has with WCW," Sullivan said. "But I know there was no way he was in any shape to wrestle. Look, a year or so ago, when Brian Pillman and Steve Austin were champs, Pillman got injured and WCW let [Lord] Steven Regal sub for him in a big title bout. They denied us the same consideration. Completely unfair!"

WCW Commissioner Nick Bockwinkel offered a simple explanation.

Jack hits Brian Sags of The Nasty Boys with a hockey stick at Slamboree, as special referee and former Philadelphia Flyers enforcer Dave Schultz looks on. WCW officials didn't share Jack's fondness for foreign objects.

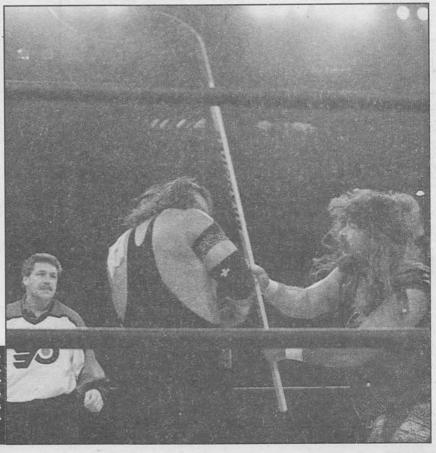
"I wasn't with WCW at the time of Pillman's injury," he noted, "but the determination then was that Pillman had suffered a legitimate injury and that it would be proper for Austin to choose a substitute. The feeling this time was that Jack was not legitimately injured."

"Not legitimately injured?" Sullivan retorted. "Did Bockwinkel watch the match? Any idiot could see Jack wasn't 100 percent! Far from it! We tried our damnedest, but you can't be lacking against two guys like Orndorff and Roma. It almost would've been some miracle if we'd won."

Cactus' injury was suffered several weeks before the Bash. In late-June, on an ECW card in Philadelphia, Jack wrestled Sabu in a wild brawl. As the combatants fought on the arena floor, Sabu cracked a bottle over Jack's head. Jack needed stitches to close the nasty wound that resulted, but that was just the most brutal highlight of a match that should have seen Cactus resting and recuperating for two months minimum.

In the ensuing weeks, those who closely follow Cactus noticed that his skills had diminished seriously.

"That match took a lot out of





The injury affecting Cactus occurred in ECW, which didn't thrill WCW officials. However, Cactus enjoyed giving (above) and taking (right) punishment against Sabu.

him," noted one fan. "You never see Cactus Jack hold back, and he was starting to hold back. Eventually, he snapped out of it, but not in time for the Bash."

If the injury was indeed so devastating, then why did WCW seemingly give it short shrift? The problem for Jack, some sources claim, was not whether the injury occurred, but where.

"It happened in ECW, against Sabu," said one wrestler, a fan favorite. "The folks in WCW were ticked off at Jack for wrestling there. So it was like they didn't even want to admit he might have been injured, because then they'd be validating ECW."

"That is utter nonsense," said a member of the WCW Board of Directors. "True, we weren't thrilled with Jack's freelancing in ECW, but that had absolutely nothing to do with the decision regarding the Bash. As we've always said, we determined Jack was healthy

enough to compete that night."

Naturally, Cactus doesn't buy that.

"Sure, the ECW situation was part of it," he claimed. "They were gonna use that against me any way they could, even if they didn't admit it."

After he and Sullivan lost the belts to Orndorff and Roma, Jack said he finally decided it was time to go.

"People like to say I don't care about winning championships, that

all I care about is doing a lot of crazy moves," he said. "But those tag belts were important to me. Me and Sullivan were good partners. If WCW was gonna make it so hard for me to be a champion, then I say they can go take a flying leap! Hey, they think I was bad. How are they gonna appreciate champions like Orndorff and Roma? Like they're angels?"

Bockwinkel insists, though, there was no conspired effort to run Jack out of WCW.

"If a wrestler plays by the rules, he'll have no problem with us," said the commissioner. "If he violates those rules, we'll be sure to get on his case. That's how we play it with every man in WCW,

from Hulk Hogan to Joey Maggs. Whatever grief—real or perceived—Cactus got from us was entirely of his own doing.

"I will admit," Bockwinkel added, "that several of my colleagues aren't exactly shedding tears over Jack's departure. Frankly, I have a sense this is a winning situation for everybody. I'm sure wherever Jack ends up, he'll thrive."

He won't thrive in WCW, at least not for now. Conspiracy or not, that is a fact.

Ay, Caramba!



YOUNEVER SAW
MIDGET WRESTLING
LIKE THIS!

Not many opponents make Espectrito look big, but diminutive Mascarita Sagrada is one of them. Sagrada later took advantage of his speed to cut his rival down to size.



If you think midget
wrestling comes up a little
short, check out the
small-statured stars from
Mexico's AAA federation.
Their incredible athleticism
takes midget competition to
new heights!

Mexico's mighty mites made an appearance on a AAA card in New York: fan favorites Octagoncito and Sagrada (above), and rulebreakers Jerrito Estrada and Espectrito (right).

By V.J. Paterno

IDGET WRESTLING HAS been a big part of the sport for decades, though its popularity has slackened off in recent times. There were some truly great stars over the years: Sky Low Low, Little Brutus, Little Tokyo, Lord Littlebrook, among so many others.

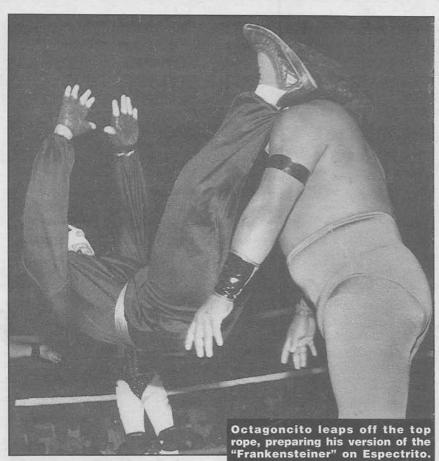
And while some people patronizingly considered them "cute," or simply viewed their matches as comic relief between "real" matches, others realized they were skilled athletes.

Now, competitors from Mexico's AAA promotion are raising midget skills to unimagined heights!

Three midgets, called "micros"

in Mexico, and one "mini" (someone larger than a midget, smaller than a normal-sized wrestler), appeared on cards recently in Chicago and New York. To many on hand, they were the hit of the evening!

These were midgets 1990s style, infused with the changes that have permeated all of wrestling in recent years. There were no instances of midgets scrambling between a referee's legs for laughs. AAA midget wrestling is



more athletic than most conventional bouts in the U.S.: incredible aerial daredevil moves, quick action, sunset flips, "Frankensteiners," moonsaults—these guys can do it all!

"We see what is going on throughout wrestling, in Japan and elsewhere," the tiniest of all, 80-pound Mascarita Sagrada, said through an interpreter, "and there is no reason why we cannot attempt maneuvers popularized by wrestlers like Jushin Liger. At our size and weight, we are well-equipped to wrestle aerially and take advantage of our speed."

At about three feet in height, Sagrada is roughly the size of a nine-year-old boy, but don't let that fool you. He's strong, quick, and smart, and in the past has even leapt off the top of a steel cage—a long fall for anyone! If Sagrada were somehow proportionally enlarged to six feet tall, he would give many of the world's best wrestlers a run for their money.

His partner for this tag match was Octagoncito, who is nearly as popular and every bit as acrobatic. He competes as a miniature version of Mexican star Octagon, right down to the red-and-black robe.

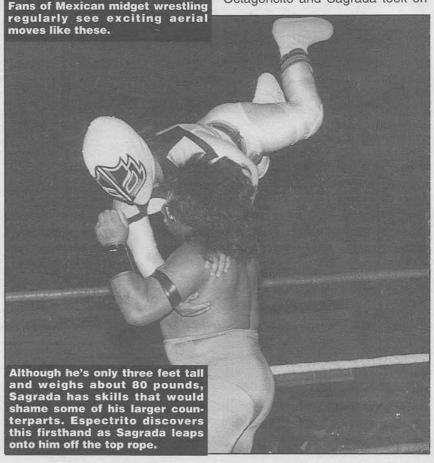
"I enjoy competing in America," Octagoncito said through an interpreter. "I hope to return for many more cards."

How well would midgets be received by American fans, he was asked?

"Since most of the fans here [in New York] were Mexican-American and already familiar with us, I don't know. I would hope they would look upon us as athletes, not as oddities. I believe if you put one of our matches on an American federation's card, we would be appreciated, but I can say that about any one of our federation's matches—not just the micros."

In fact, they would conceivably steal the show.

At The Paramount Theater, Octagoncito and Sagrada took on





Espectrito, a masked micro whose entrance music is the *Godzilla* theme, and the mini Jerrito Estrada. The rulebreakers won the first fall in the best-of-three-falls match when Estrada registered the pin.

revealed to be balding.

However, Sagrada's speed and Octagoncito's remarkable kicking ability then came to the forefront. They won the next two falls, using a variety of aerial moves to confound their opponents.

"They made us work hard," Sagrada said after the match. "It helped that yesterday [in Chicago] I had to team with Estrada against

Espectrito is more of a power wrestler than the other minis, and uses some of that strength against Octagoncito. Fans in New York and Chicago enjoyed watching the midget tag teams.

Espectrito and Octagoncito. I knew what to expect from Estrada to-day."

Very little of this little men's match could be considered "cute." The funniest thing that happened

came when Sagrada took off the neckerchief covering Estrada's head, revealing his near-baldness and drawing guffaws from the crowd.

In addition, Octagoncito briefly pulled Espectrito's mask off. (To be unmasked in Mexican wrestling is tantamount to losing one's masculinity.) But he recovered and reattached the mask scant seconds later, before most fans caught little more than a glimpse of the unmasked man.

"I have seen films of some of the great American midgets of the 1950s and 1960s, and they were very good for their time," Octagoncito said. "But athletes evolve and improve over the years. I do not wish to boast, but we are better skilled than they. In future generations, there will undoubtedly be micros better than we are."

They'll have to do quite a bit to surpass Sagrada and his counterparts. You won't find much power in midget wrestling, just as a champion flyweight boxer lacks the knockout punch of even a mediocre heavyweight. But you'll see everything else fans love: quickness, deception, ring generalship, aerial skills.

The wrestlers may be smaller than their normal-sized counterparts, but the action certainly isn't.



The telephone wires sizzle each month, as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. Here's the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to feel the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off ... One On One

The TROUBLE BEGAN for Dustin Rhodes when Bunkhouse Buck arrived in WCW and targeted him for destruction. No one knew much about Buck, who claimed the Rhodes family had publicly humiliated him several years earlier. He also claimed that he, and not "American Dream" Dusty Rhodes, was the true king of the bunkhouse match. He intended to prove that against Dustin.

At Slamboree, Dustin turned back Buck's challenge, but found an even more formidable foe in Terry Funk, who interfered on Buck's behalf. When Funk announced he was joining Buck in Col. Robert Parker's Stud Stable, Dustin knew he needed some help.

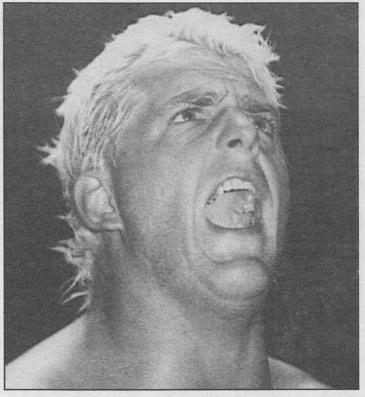
Meanwhile, Arn Anderson was searching for a challenge. The former member of The Four Horsemen agreed to aid the younger Rhodes in his war with the Stud Stable. Considering Anderson's rulebreaking past, there were skeptics. However, Dustin became convinced he could rely on Anderson. He wasn't looking for a friend, just a partner.

He found neither.

During the course of Rhodes and Anderson's Bash at the Beach showdown with the Stable, the ex-Horseman doublecrossed his partner, blasting him with a vicious DDT. That gave Funk and Buck an easy victory, and it gave Dustin a whole new challenge.

Now faced with a one-on-three situation, Dustin has decided to get help from an obvious source: his father Dusty. The "American Dream" is about to come out of retirement and join his son in battle against The Stud Stable.

0150



"I do expect you to spread a pack of lies about me and my dad. That's what you and your kind are expert at. So you just keep talking and we'll concentrate on the wrestling. Our way always wins out."

—Dustin Rhodes

While preparing for the confrontations ahead, the younger Rhodes and Anderson agreed to take time out and burn up the phone lines for a less physical but equally violent confrontation ... "One On One."

DUSTIN RHODES: You know, Anderson, I'm still kicking myself. I still can't believe I trusted you! Biggest mistake I ever made. And I promise you it's one I'll never make again! Now it's time to stop kicking myself and start kicking your sorry butt!

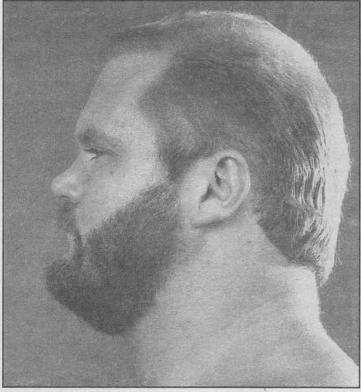
ARN ANDERSON: Who ever said you had to trust me? I told everybody who'd listen that Arn Anderson had not changed one iota! I'm the same guy I ever

was. Maybe if you had listened, you wouldn't have make the "mistake," as you call it. And as for your little threats: I've never been intimidated by a member of the Rhodes family, and I never will be!

DR: You should be intimidated, because I fully intend to make good on those threats. I may be slow to anger, but when you push me too far, watch out! When you jumped me at the Bash, that was it. You and that whole Stud Stable won yourself more trouble than you bargained for.

AA: Trouble for who? You and that old man they call the "Dream"? It's typical, Rhodes, typical that when you get yourself in a tight spot you have to get

NOME



"You'll win out, huh? Rhodes, I don't think you understand or realize the power of the Stud Stable. I'm too modest to boast about my own accomplishments, but you know my track record."

—Am Anderson

Daddy to bail you out. How does that make you feel? Does that make you feel like much of a man? If I were you, I'd be feeling pretty disgusted with myself right about now.

DR: Listen, Anderson, I'm proud of my dad, and I'm proud he's with me on this. The Rhodes family sticks together, and for that we make no apologies. I can't think of a better man—a better wrestler—to turn to than Dusty Rhodes. You say that's something I should be embarrassed about? I say you're dead wrong.

AA: Fine, you bring old Pappy to the ring with you. See how much help he is to you. He's old, fat, and out-of-shape. He won't be a problem for me, and he won't

be a problem for anybody else in the Stud Stable. I'm sure even Col. Parker could take Dusty without breaking a sweat. Hey, Rhodes, tell you what: We'll let you pick another partner. Anybody you like. We'll give you at least a sporting chance. How much good can your old dad be to you in there? Think about it.

DR: I don't need to think about it, not even for a split-second. Stop trying to play games, Anderson. Truth is, you're scared. So are Funk and Buck and Col. Parker, too. You know that even though he's been retired for some time, my dad is still one of the most dangerous wrestlers in the business. If he weren't in the picture you'd feel a whole lot better. You're

scared, but I don't expect you to admit that. I do expect you to spread a pack of lies about me and my dad. That's what you and your kind are expert at. So you just keep talking and we'll concentrate on the wrestling. Our way always wins out.

AA: You'll win out, huh? Rhodes, I don't think you understand or realize the power of the Stud Stable. I'm too modest to boast about my own accomplishments, but you know my track record. And you know a lot about Bunkhouse Buck; he's been whipping your behind in those bunkhouse matches enough. As for Terry Funk, well, if you're not afraid of him, then you're just plain dumb. Think hard about what a long, drawn-out feud might do to your career, about how it might even end that career. And think what it'll do to Dusty. Maybe cripple him, or worse. You're sure you want to go through with this?

DR: If you're serious, Arn, then you're the dummy around here. All you're doing now is trying to avoid us. Too late for that. The time for that was before you blindsided me at the Bash. Back then, you had the chance to redeem yourself. We could've been a great team, but you had to take the easy way out, as always. Truth is, you're the one who's always needed bailing out. You always had your Horsemen buddies in your corner. When the Horsemen broke up, you were lost. You couldn't cut it on your own. The Stud Stable is just a substitute for the Horsemen.

AA: You listen to me, you little punk! Am Anderson has always been his own man! I'm in the Stud Stable because I want to be, not because I have to be. You look anybody in this sport straight in the eye and ask him about double-A. If they're not lying, they'll tell you they respect me as a man who gets it done. They don't all like me, and I don't care. I'm not trying to win any popularity contests. But they have my respect. You should, too.

DR: I used to respect you, Anderson. Now all you deserve is my contempt. We'll see you and the rest of your crew in the ring. This is one fight the Rhodes family will never lose!

AA: I'm ready, my friend. Bring it home!

INSIDE WRESTLING 55

Sincerely Yours (Continued from page 5)

Slam '92 at London's Wembley Stadium), the "Hitman" could be facing a contenders list loaded with family members.

RICHARD EVANS Gulfport, MS

AAA ALL THE WAY

For years, friends of mine from Southern California have raved about Mexico's AAA promotion. and after watching a card at New York's Paramount, now I see why. While I personally prefer the American one-fall format to the best-of-three falls used in Mexico. the wrestlers themselves are amazing. They're somewhat smaller than their American counterparts (no. I'm not referring to the midgets, who are in a class of their own), but compensate with incredible athleticism. Konnan, El Hijo del Santo, and Psicosis, to name a few, would fare very well in any American federation.

I'll be the first to admit this wrestling is not for all tastes, just as Japanese wrestling may not appeal to many Americans. But those who watch it with an open

mind, not expecting a WCW, WWF, or ECW clone, will find it fascinating. The outfits are as dazzling as the moves. (Compared to the clown suits worn by the three-some of Los Payasos, Doink looks as if he came straight from a backwater road show.)

One suggestion for AAA: Any future cards in New York should have a bilingual ring announcer. While the crowd was largely Spanish-speaking, more and more "Anglos" will be on hand once word gets around about this excellent wrestling. And I'll be one of them.

BERNIE O'TOOLE Jersey City, NJ

VALIANT VOLKOFF

Did Chris Bernucca have a mood swing or something? First he told us not to feel sorry for Nikolai Vołkoff ("On The Road," August 1994). Then he gives us "Pity Poor Nikolai Vołkoff! 1,000 Days In A Siberian Death Camp = 1 Day With Ted DiBiase" (September 1994). You got it right the first time, Chris. Volkoff is a grown man who makes his own decisions. Nobody put a gun to his head and *forced* him to sign with the "Million-Dollar Man." In life, you make your choices and live with them.

By the by, Virgil looked good in his first few months post-DiBiase, and then his career dropped like a bomb. The last time I saw Virgil, he was teaming with some prelim stiff and losing to Well Dunn.

Besides, Volkoff has been wrestling more aggressively than he has in years, and has regained his status as a bona fide WWF superstar. I'm sorry if Volkoff's ring attire doesn't look as respectable as that of Doink the Clown or Sparky Plugg. WWF wrestlers have been selling out for years. Volkoff is just a little more obvious about it than most.

HARRY SIMON Las Vegas, NV



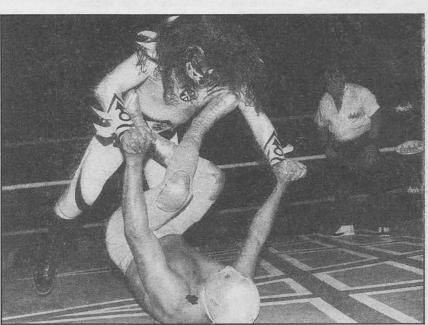
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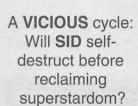
El Hijo del Santo monkey-flips Psicosis during the IWC/AAA card in New York. Reader Bernie O'Toole liked watching the athleticism of the Mexican federation, and thinks many American fans would enjoy it, too.

This Month In...

Wrestler Will



"HULKSTER" under siege! Can HOGAN hold off WCW's best?



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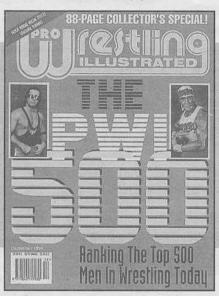
CHRISTOPHER DANIELS

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All this—and much more!—in the December 1994 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*

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Behind the Door

(Continued from page 12)

hard. Former Associate Editor Gian Trotta and I still talk about that night. Cheryl Roberts, wearing a silver dress, shed a tear and I could've sworn she was going to leave Jake for Honky right then and there.

Oh, those were the days! The WWF was at its peak and Honky Tonk was number two on the totem pole, just a notch below Hulk Hogan.

"I was the King," Honky Tonk said.
"But now I'm going to be the King again. Hulk Hogan, you can't stop me this time. Ric Flair, you'd better get out of my way. The Honky Tonk Man is here!"

Honky Tonk never could understand why the fans didn't like him. He is an

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PRO WRESTLING CAREER BOOK 2770 Lenox Rd. NE, Ste. 200 • Atlanta, GA 30324 entertainer, an athlete, a comedian. He's the natural fan favorite.

And I have a feeling WCW fans aren't going to like him, either. The most intriguing aspect of Honky Tonk's arrival in WCW is that Jimmy Hart, his exmanager, is here, too, and he manages Hogan. Get the picture? Hart and Honky were good together and I have a feeling "The Mouth Of The South" would rather be with Honky Tonk than Hogan. Of course, there's the little matter of a contract.

But this could work out perfectly. In my dream, I see Hogan and Honky Tonk battling over Hart. The winner gets the manager and the WCW World title. At that point, the world would have no choice but to honor Honky Tonk for what he is: the most misunderstood all-time great there ever was.

More on Honky Tonk. He has a few new guitars, some snappy new outfits, and I think his voice sounds better than ever. I asked him what he had been doing for the past year, other than wrestle occasionally on the independent circuit.

"Not much, Dave," Honky Tonk answered. "Doing a little shopping. Spent some time at Graceland. Worked on a few new songs. Been doing a lot of reading up on WCW. Never been here before."

I asked Honky Tonk if he remembered his performance at the Slammys.

"Sure do," he said. "As clear as day. Crowd gave me a standing ovation. A couple of people said to me, 'You sound just like Elvis.' And I said to them, 'Elvis who?"

It's good to know Honky Tonk hasn't changed. Here's a man who has always been true to himself. He has never changed.

That's a good thing for some of us. For the rest of you who haven't caught on, that's your problem.



Honky Tonk's move to WCW comes while his former manager, Jimmy Hart, is guiding the career of federation champion Hulk Hogan. Might "The Mouth Of The South" ditch the "Hulkster" for his old friend?

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The Insider

(Continued from page 14)

He does not realize that his success was an illusion.

He did not invent professional wrestling, just as surely as his actions will not destroy professional wrestling. The sport, like the sun, the ocean and the stars, will outlast his pitiful legacy. It will absorb his impact and register it no more than an elephant would an undigested peanut.

At last we arrive at the truth: mcmahon is an undigested peanut rotting in the small intestine of a great elephant. Hazard a guess to what his future holds?

As an irrigator guides water to his fields, as an archer aims an arrow, as a carpenter carves wood, the wise shape their lives.

Some would say we have not moved much in the past 10 years. Hulk Hogan is still champion of the most celebrated wrestling federation in the world. On the face of it this would seem true. But movement in wrestling is a subtle thing.

Take Hogan, for instance. His 24-inch pythons are now 19-inch garter snakes. His bark is worse than his bite. Credit his victory over Ric Flair to nerves, genetic imprinting, and acculturation. This generation insists upon Hogan as champion. His time will quickly fade. His body will continue to shrink. Eventually, he will melt to his original form: a strand of blond hair, a knee pad, and his orange tan. He is so stupid he puts a ruler by his bed to see how long he slept.

This isn't a traditionally zen thought, but I can't help it. mcmahon twisted his father's proud legacy into a seedy backroom pool



While Hulk Hogan is again champion of a federation (this time WCW), Ellner notes he's literally not as big as he used to be. Expect the "Hulkster" to gradually wither away.

hall, populated by junkies. Say a prayer for the souls of his children.

Man is the only animal who is penitent, and the only animal who needs to be. mcmahon's WWF will be absorbed into the wind and settle into the fields. Its seeds will spawn poisonous fruit. Do not eat this fruit. Do not play in these fields. Do not wear his sweaters.

mcmahon wanted to be big. He took drugs and lifted weights. His business was full of artificial stimulants. Bigger is better, he thought. He sought wealth at the expense of health, size instead of wisdom. And now he relies on Nikolai Volkoff and Luna Vachon to fill his arenas.

Ha ha ha.

On The Road (Continued from page 10)

Aguayo, El Hijo del Santo, Octagon, and more). There was little advance sale and just a bit of advertising, mostly in *El Diario*, a Spanish-language daily newspaper and one of the New York sponsors.

Would IWC/AAA, seemingly far away from its roots, thrive? Or would it be a fish out of water?

The New York card, at Madison Square Garden's Paramount Theater, drew an announced crowd of 3,700 to a 5,000-seat arena. But many observers thought the figure was closer to 4,400, as very few seats were empty once action ended and the lights came back on. Even the smaller estimate is larger than what WCW drew to The Paramount in April of 1993.

If anything, the Chicago attendance was more impressive. About 6,100 were on hand at the Rosemont Horizon, a suburban facility not easily accessible to urban Hispanics.

In New York, the promoters, unsure who would show up, hedged their bets. They arranged for Pedro Morales, the Puerto Rican-born former WWF World and Intercontinental champion, to make a special appearance, and gave him a lifetime achievement award. Surely some Puerto Ricans would show up to cheer one of their heroes.

Perhaps a few did, but not many of them. While no one booed Morales, he got tepid applause at best. The reaction for the most part was, "Who is this guy?"

For this was a largely Mexican crowd, which knew Morales no more than WWF or WCW fans would know El Hijo del Santo if he were introduced at one of their cards. The atmosphere was simi-



Konnan, held by Eddy Guerrero, absorbs punishment from Jake Roberts during a card in New York held by Mexico's AAA. The promotion nearly sold out the Paramount Theater, proving it can succeed in the U.S. outside of California.

lar to Dodger Stadium when Fernando Valenzuela was in his prime: People waved Mexican flags, cheered the fan favorites, and booed the rulebreakers. When Jake Roberts, Mexico's idea of the ugly American, was introduced, more than a few ice cubes were tossed into the ring.

Those few Anglos on hand, including people wearing ECW or Smoky Mountain T-shirts, must have felt isolated. Ring introductions were in Spanish, so if you didn't know anything about the competitors beforehand, you were out of luck. Fortunately, the wrestling—acrobatic and packed with all kinds of action—transcended language. American fans might not have known the com-

petitors, but surely could appreciate them.

IWC/AAA will never overtake the WWF or WCW in the States any more than foreign-language films can outdraw Hollywood's latest blockbusters. However, there is a niche for this kind of wrestling, and IWC/AAA promoters have tapped it. They plan future shows in Chicago and New York to go with their California dates. Don't be surprised to see them book Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, and San Antonio, where there are substantial Mexican populations.

It's an invasion Pancho Villa himself would have been proud of.

(Regular columnist Chris Bernucca is on vacation, but will be back nect month.)

On Assignment

(Continued from page 16)

like Angel, portrayed in a humble, do-gooder light.

Then it was "Stunning" Steve Austin's turn to speak, and you wondered how he made the cut. "I want to be as clear as possible for all you kids out there," he lectured. "Give it up. I'm not your hero. I am beyond your comprehension. I refuse to inspire you. I am too good. Too handsome, strong, fast, smart-I am a negative role model because you can never hope to fill half my shoes."

I asked Austin why he didn't pander to the network cameras like the rest of his colleagues.

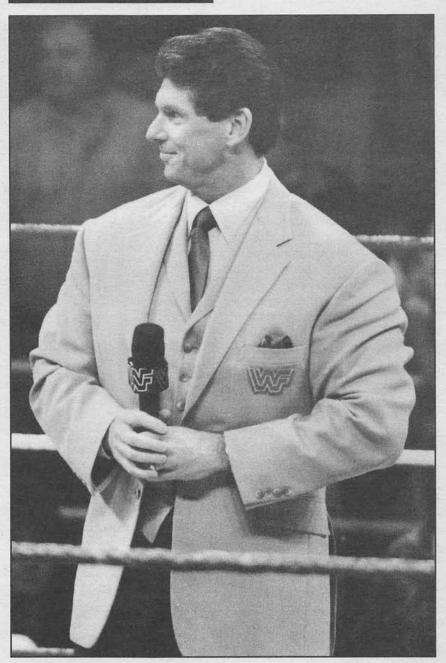
"How can you even ask me that question, Liz?" Austin hollered. "I don't seek or require public approval. It shows what a stinkin' hypocrite Dustin Rhodes is. In the ring the guy's the biggest cheat of them all. He loads his boots, he uses the ropes, he cries to officials. He just doesn't have the guts to admit it.

"I don't want to mislead anyone into thinking I'm something I'm not. The bottom line is I'm a great wrestler, a champion, and that should be the only criteria used in evaluating me."

Steve Austin, a breath of fresh air? Who would have guessed it?

Innocent As Charged! All this talk condemning Vince McMahon (I'm not naming names, Ellner), you would think the WWF CEO was convicted, and not acquitted, of all the charges against him. McMahon admitted using steroids himself, but denied ever insisting his wrestlers use them. The jury believed him, and when the verdict was announced, the packed Federal courtroom burst into applause.

Despite the victory, McMahon can't help but be hurt by the dark shadow it cast on the federation. I think a repentant and humbled Vince



Now that the threat of a jail sentence has escaped Vince McMahon, the WWF impresario can get back to his federation. His promotional acumen will be put to a severe test now that Hulk Hogan is gone for good.

McMahon can steer the WWF in the right direction. As he told reporters after the verdict, "I see nothing but blue skies ahead for the World Wrestling Federation."

Let's give McMahon the benefit of doubt. The tasks ahead for him are formidable. He must replace Hulk Hogan, perhaps the most daunting promotional task of his accomplished career. But if anyone can do it, McMahon can. The wrestling world needs his innovative mind and fresh wealth of ideas. With this behind him, perhaps now he will unleash his talents in a positive way.

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December 1988/Stories include: Powers of Pain, Ultimate, Flair, Piper, January 1989/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Sting, Arn, Kerry-Lawler. February 1989/Stories include: Hogan-Bossman, Tully & Arn, Warriors-Windham-March 1989/Stories include: Hennig, Midnights, Fuller & Golden, Ultimate May 1989/Stories include: Hogan, Steiner, Morton, Bad Co., Taylor.

June 1989/Stories include: Hogan-Savage, Luger, Steamboat-Flair, July 1989/Stories include: Savage. Windham, Kerry, Demolition, Sting. August 1989/Stories include: Hulkamania, Steamboat, Rude, Cornette. September 1989/Stories include: Savage-Hogan, Luger, Mascaras, Rhodes October 1989/Stories include: Hall & Pillman & Vicious, Hennig, Swats vs. Warriors, Rhodes November 1989/Stories include: Elizabeth.

December 1989/Stories include: Rhodes, Flair, Hogan-Zeus, Embry. January 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Sting-Flair, Roberts-DiBiase. February 1990/Stories include: Warriors-Skyscrapers, Zenk, Rude-Piper. April 1990/Stories include: Starrcade '89, Ultimate, Rhodes, Sawyer. May 1990/Stories include: Hogan-Ultimate, Luger, Woman, Lawler, LPWA. June 1990/Stories include: Sting, Saito-Zbyszko, Earthquake, Ultimate, Jarrett. July 1990/Stories include: Steiners, Sting, Warrior & Hogan, Earthquake. August 1990/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Hogan, Warrior, Taylor. September 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Duggan, JYD, Adams, Horsemen. October 1990/Stories include: Sting, Legion of Doom, Bushwhackers, Gigante. November 1990/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Vicious, Slaughter, Orients. December 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Sting, Kerry, Cornette, Zbyszko. January 1991/Stories include: LOD, Adams, Steiners, Lawler-Funk February 1991/Stories include: Taylor, Hogan, Martel, Sting, all-annoying team. March 1991/Stories include: Hogan-Earthquake, Roberts-Martel, Sting. April 1991/Stories include: Flair-Sting. Steiners, Piper, Zbyszko, Slaughter May 1991/Stories include: Savage-Warrior, Steiners, Sting, Virgil. June 1991/Stories include: Steiners, LOD, Koloff, I-C belt, Dundees. July 1991/Stories include: Hogan, Virgil, Funk, Nastys, Steiners, Spivey. August 1991/Stories include: Warrior-Undertaker, Steiners, Flair, Steamboat. September 1991/Stories include: Justice-Hogan, Hyatt, Rude, Hennig.
October 1991/Stories include: Savage & Liz, Hogan & Warrior, Luger.

November 1991/Stories include: Hogan-Savage, Luger, Flair, War Games. December 1991/Stories include: SummerSlam, York, Simmons. January 1992/Stories include: Sting, Freebirds, Hart, Rhodes, Rotundo. February 1992/Stories include: Luger, Hart, Patriot, Rude, Thesz-Rogers. April 1992/Stories include: Hart. Steiners.

Liger-Pillman, Roberts. May 1992/Stories include: Justice-Hogan, Liger, Gilbert, Repo Man. June 1992/Stories include: Sting, Hogan, Race, M.A. Bagwell, Atlas. July 1992/Stories include: Undertaker. Vader, Sherri/Michaels, Madusa August 1992/Stories include: Savage-Flair, Jack-Badd, Christopher, LOD. September 1992/Stories include: War Games, Hogan, Vader, Kamala. October 1992/Stories include: SummerSlam, Steiner-Muta, Simmons. November 1992/Stories include: Flair, Warrior, Vader, top rope rule. December 1992/Stories include: Flair, Ramon, Heavenly Bodies, Jarrett. February 1993/Stories include: LOD. Smoky Mountain, Rude, Jimmy Hart. March 1993/Stories include: Michaels, Nikita Koloff, Windham-Rhodes, May 1993/Stories include: WrestleMania IX analsis, Andre tribute, Muta. June 1993/Stories include: Doink, Vader-Sting, Jimmy Hart, Steiners, Lawler. July 1993/Stories include: Bravo. Gonzales, Bulldog, Ramon, Arn, Tatanka. August 1993/Stories include: Christopher-Michaels, Hogan-Yokozuna, Hart. September 1993/Stories include: Steiners, Slamboree, Ramon, Sting & Smith, Hart. October 1993/Stories include: SummerSlam preview, Money Inc., Nanny Simpson, Vader-Vicious, Hart-Lawler. November 1993/Stories include: Heavenly Bodies, Jannetty, Rude-Flair, Hogan, Luger, Power Bombs. December 1993/Stories include: Fytch, Austin, Luger, Sting & Flair, Yokozuna. February 1994/Stories include: Hogan, Duggan, Doinks, Blonds, holiday wishes. March 1994/Stories include: Nastys, Parker, Borga, 1994 predictions. May 1994/Stories include: Flair-Rude, Hart. Luger, Morton, Heenan-Bockwinkel. June 1994/Stories include: Steamboat, Snuka, Anthony, Bruise Bros., Blayze. August 1994/Stories include: Piper, Hogan, 911, Freebirds, rulebreakers. September 1994/Stories include: Undertaker, Nastys, Volkoff, Flair-Steamboat.

	ories include. D		Sung, Luger, F		
☐ AUG 75	□ OCT 82	☐ MAY 85	□ AUG 87	□ DEC 89	□ APR 92
☐ MAR 76	☐ NOV 82	☐ JUNE 85	☐ SEPT 87	□ JAN 90	☐ MAY 92
☐ AUG 76	☐ DEC 82	☐ JULY 85	☐ OCT 87	☐ FEB 90	☐ JUNE 92
□ OCT 76	☐ FEB 83	☐ SEPT 85	□ NOV 87	☐ APR 90	☐ JULY 92
☐ NOV 76	☐ MAR 83	OCT 85	☐ DEC 87	☐ MAY 90	☐ AUG 92
□ AUG 77	☐ APR 83	☐ NOV 85	□ JAN 88	☐ JUNE 90	☐ SEPT 92
☐ SEPT 77	☐ MAY 83	☐ DEC 85	☐ FEB 88	☐ JULY 90	□ OCT 92
□ OCT 77	☐ JUNE 83	□ JAN 86	☐ MAR 88	☐ AUG 90	☐ NOV 92
☐ MAR 78	☐ JULY 83	☐ FEB 86	☐ APR 88	☐ SEPT 90	□ DEC 92
☐ APR 78	☐ AUG 83	□ MAR 86	☐ MAY 88	□ OCT 90	☐ FEB 93
☐ DEC 78	☐ SEPT 83	☐ APR 86	☐ JUNE 88	□ NOV 90	☐ MAR 93
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E WRESTLING'S

TOP 15

1-BRFT HART

(1) WWF World champion

2-HULK HOGAN

(2) WCW World champion

3—STING (9) No. 2 contender: WCW World title 4-DIESEL

(5) WWF Intercontinental champion

5-RIC FLAIR

(3) No. 4 contender: WCW World title

6—LEX LUGER

(10) No. 4 contender: WWF World title

7—STEVE AUSTIN

4—STEVE REGAL

5-RIC FLAIR

(4) 247, Blackpool, England

(3) 243, Minneapolis, MN

6-BIG VAN VADER

7-RICK STEAMBOAT

(6) 450, Denver, CO

(5) 238, Honolulu, HI

(4) U.S. heavyweight champion

(10) 310, Cobb County, GA

(7) 254, Austin, TX

11-BRIAN PILLMAN

(12) 226, Cincinnati, OH

12-SID VICIOUS

(-) USWA heavyweight champion

13—RICK STEAMBOAT

(-) No. 6 contender: WCW World title

14-OWEN HART

(11) No. 2 contender: WWF World title

15—SHANE DOUGLAS

(-) ECW heavyweight champion

WCW

1-HULK HOGAN

(1) 275, Venice Beach, CA

2—STEVE AUSTIN (2) 241, Dallas, TX

3-STING

(9) 260, Venice Beach, CA

8-THE GUARDIAN ANGEL

9—DUSTIN RHODES

8-STEVE REGAL

10-SABU

(6) WCW TV champion

9-TONY ANTHONY

11—RAZOR RAMON

(8) Smoky Mountain champion

(13) No. 1 contender: ECW title

(15) No. 3 contender: WWF World title

10-ARN ANDERSON

(13) 249, Minneapolis, MN

12-JOHNNY B. BADD (8) 235, Macon, GA

13—HACKSAW DUGGAN

(-) 280, Glens Falls, NY

14—THE HONKY TONK MAN

(-) 278, Memphis, TN

15—KEVIN SULLIVAN

(-) 252, Boston, MA

WWF

1-BRET HART

(1) 234, Calgary, Alberta

2-DIESEL

(2) 356, Las Vegas, NV

3-OWEN HART

(3) 227, Calgary, Alberta

4-RAZOR RAMON

(11) 287, Miami, FL

5-LEX LUGER

(-) 265, Chicago, IL

6-THE UNDERTAKER

(-) 328, parts unknown

7—TATANKA

(9) 250, Pembroke, NC

8-IRWIN R. SCHYSTER

(7) 248, Syracuse, NY

9-THE KID

(13) 212, Minneapolis, MN

10-ADAM BOMB

(-) 292, Harrisburg, PA

11-BOD BACKLUND

(10) 234, Princeton, MN

8-TONY ANTHONY

Last issue: No. 11 Most Popular

Last issue: No. 14 Most Popular

12—SHAWN MICHAELS (-) 234, San Antonio, TX

13—BAM BAM BIGELOW (-) 368, Mt. Laurel, NJ

14-DOINK THE CLOWN

(-) 235, parts unknown

15—SPARKY PLUGG

(-) 231, Talladega, AL

MOST POPULAR

1-HULK HOGAN

Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular

2-BRET HART

Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular

3—RAZOR RAMON

Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular

4—STING

Last issue: No. 5 Most Popular

5—RICK STEAMBOAT

Last issue: No. 7 Most Popular

6-DUSTIN RHODES

Last issue: No. 10 Most Popular

7—LEX LUGER Last issue: No. 6 Most Popular 10-TATANKA Last issue: No. 9 Most Popular

9-THE KID

11-RANDY SAVAGE

Last issue: No. 8 Most Popular

12-THE GUARDIAN ANGEL Last issue: unrated

13-ADAM BOMB

Last issue: unrated

14—CACTUS JACK

Last issue: unrated 15—TRACEY SMOTHERS

Last issue: unrated

MOST HATED

1-BIG VAN VADER

Last issue: No. 2 Most Hated

2-OWEN HART Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated

3-BOB BACKLUND Last issue: unrated

4—SHAWN MICHAELS

Last issue: unrated

5—BAM BAM BIGELOW

Last issue: No. 7 Most Hated 6-ARN ANDERSON

Last issue: unrated

7-DIESEL Last issue: No. 4 Most Hated 8-BUNKHOUSE BUCK

Last issue: No. 10 Most Hated 9-YOKOZUNA

Last issue: No. 9 Most Hated

10-JEFF JARRETT

Last issue: unrated 11—STEVE AUSTIN Last issue: unrated

12-JERRY LAWLER

Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated

13—BRUISER BEDLAM

Last issue: No. 14 Most Hated 14-IRWIN R. SCHYSTER

Last issue: No. 6 Most Hated 15—JIM NEIDHART

Last issue: No. 11 Most Hated

TOP 15

1—THE HEADSHRINKERS

(1) WWF World tag team champions 2—MARCUS BAGWELL & THE PATRIOT

(8) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title 3—PAUL ORNDORFF & PAUL ROMA

(2) WCW World tag team champions 4—THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS

(-) Smoky Mountain tag team champions 5—BAM BAM BIGELOW & IRWIN R. SCHYSTER (-) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title

6-THE NASTY BOYS

(4) No. 2 contenders: WCW World tag title

7—PUBLIC ENEMY

(7) ECW tag team champions 8—THE HEAVENLY BODIES

(-) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title

9—HULK HOGAN & STING (-) No. 3 contenders: WCW World tag title

10—THE SMOKIN' GUNNS (-) No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag title 11-WELL DUNN

12-BAD BREED

(-) No. 4 contenders: WWF World tag title

(-) No. 1 contenders: ECW tag title

13-PG-13 (6) No. 1 contenders: USWA tag fitle

14-DORY FUNK JR. & TERRY FUNK

(10) No. 2 contenders: ECW tag title

15—GEORGE SOUTH & ITALIAN STALLION (-) PWF tag team champions

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue... "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices ... Championships highlighted in bold on the "Roll Call Of Champions" have changed hands since our previous issue ... The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

AAA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: LOVE MACHINE & EDDY GUERRERO (July 23,1994; defeated El hijo del Santo & Octagon; Rosemont, Illinois) ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DAN KROFFAT & DOUG FURNAS (September 9, 1993; from The Patriot & The Eagle; Omiya, Japan) ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: STEVE WILLIAMS (July 28, 1994; from Mitsuharu Misawa; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DAN KROFFAT (July 12, 1994; from Masanobu Fuchi; Kagoshima, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MITSUHARU MISAWA & KENTA KOBASHI

(December 3, 1993; beat Akira Taue & Toshiaki Kawada in tournament final; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: STEVE WILLIAMS (July 28, 1994; from Mitsuharu Misawa; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S ALL-PACIFIC CHAMPION: YOKO INOUE (March 27, 1994; defeated Toshiyo Yamada; Yokohama, Japan) ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: KAORU ITO (May 4, 1994; defeated Rie Tamada in tournament final; Toda, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: AJA KONG (November 26, 1992; from Bull Nakano; Kawasaki, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CANDY OKUTSU (December 6, 1993; from Chapparita Asari; Osaka, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

MINAMI TOYOTA & TOSHIYO YAMADA (December 6, 1993; from Dynamite Kansai & Mayumi Ozaki; Osaka, Japan)

ALL-STATE WRESTUNG HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: RICK CANNON (July 7, 1994; from Tony Prichard; Maryville, TN)

ALL-STATE WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RICK CONNERS & LONE STAR (March 31, 1994; from Charlie Long & Bobby B; Maryville, TN)

AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: T. RANTULA (March 26, 1994; from Rip Sawyer; Johnsonburg, PA)

AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JOHNNY GRAHAM

(May 29, 1994; from Lord Zoltan; Lancaster, PA) AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE BAD CREW (September 30, 1993; title previously vacant; York, PA)

AMERICAN STATES WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SCOTT SOMERS (November 19, 1993; from Bo Dacious; Mansfield, OH)

ATLANTIC WRESTLING COUNCIL LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMPION: BOBBY ROGERS (December 4, 1993; from Blare Rogers; Hollywood, FL)

ATLANTIC WRESTLING COUNCIL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS; T.J. JACKSON & THE MISER (July 2, 1993; from American Scorpion & The Falcon; West Palm Beach, FL)

CENTURY WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION; TONY ATLAS (December 4, 1993; from Vic Steamboat; Tewksbury, MA)

CONTINENTAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: VIC STEAMBOAT (October 23, 1993; from The Iron Sheik; Wakefield, MA)

CONTINENTAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: RAY ODYSSEY (October 23, 1993; from Flex Lavender; Wakefield, MA)

ECW HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SHANE DOUGLAS (March 26, 1994; from Terry Funk; Devon, PA)

ECW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: PUBLIC ENEMY (March 6, 1994; from Kevin Sullivan & Tasmaniac; Philadelphia, PA)

ECW TELEVISION CHAMPION: JASON (August 13, 1994; from Mikey Whipwreck; Philadelphia, PA)

GWF HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CHRIS ADAMS (July 1, 1994; from Rod Price; Dallas, TX)

GWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JIM GARVIN & TERRY GORDY (June 3, 1994: from Black Bart & John Hawk; Dallas, TX)

IPWA CHAMPION: TITLE HELD UP (Most recently held by Vern Henderson)

IWC HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: KONNAN (April 2, 1994; from Cien Caras; Reynosa, Mexico) IWCCW LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JOE SAVOLDI (December 26, 1991; from Tasmaniac; Monticello, NY)

IWCCW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE SIOUX WAR PARTY (May 9, 1992; defeated The Canadians in tournament final; Hamburg, PA)

IWGP CHAMPION: SHINYA HASHIMOTO (May 1, 1994; from Tatsumi Fujinami; Fukuoka, Japan)

IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: KENSUKE SASAKI & HAWK (January 4, 1994; from Scott Norton & Hercules; Tokyo, Japan)

IWGP JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JUSHIN LIGER (January 4, 1993; from Ultimo Dragon; Tokyo, Japan)

MIDWEST TERRITORIAL WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MACHINE GUN KELLY (July 16, 1994; from Al Snow; Taylor, MI)

MIDWEST TERRITORIAL WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE INTERNATIONAL FREEDOM FIGHTERS (July 16, 1994; from Road Warrior Hawk & Bobo Brazil Jr.; Taylor, MI)

NWA WOMEN'S CHAMPION: BAMBI (July 26, 1994; from Peggy Lee Leather; Chattanooga, TN)

PACIFIC WRESTUNG FEDERATION CHAMPION: STEVE WILLIAMS (July 28, 1994; from Mitsuharu Misawa; Tokyo, Japan)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MITSUHARU MISAWA & KENTA KOBASHI (December 3, 1993; beat Akira Taue & Toshiaki Kawada in tournament final; Tokyo, Japan)

PLANT CITY WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: LUSCIOUS LUKE (May 19, 1994; from Vern Henderson; Plant City, Florida)

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: RUSSIAN ASSASSIN II (July 29, 1994; defeated Italian Stallion in tournament final; Belmant, NC)

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: CRUEL CONNECTION II (February 12, 1994; from American G.I.; Point Pleasant, WV)

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BRIAN WILLIAMS (April 29, 1994; from George South; Kings Mountain, NC)

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:GEORGE SOUTH & ITALIAN STALLION (May 28, 1994; from Terry Austin & Austin Steele; Inman, SC)

SMOKY MOUNTAIN HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TONY ANTHONY (July 5, 1994; from Jake Roberts; Warrensville, NC)

SMOKY MOUNTAIN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS (August 8, 1994; from Chris Candido & Brian Lee; Saliville, VA)

SMOKY MOUNTAIN U.S. JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CHRIS CANDIDO (November 13, 1993; from Bobby Blaze; Morristown, TN)

TRI-STAR WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JIMMY SHARPE (July 22, 1994; from Randy Steele; Rossville, GA)

TRI-STAR WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: CAM & SAM COLT (June 8, 1994; from The Jet Set; Fort Oglethorpe, GA)

USWA CHAMPION: SID VICIOUS (July 16, 1994; by forfeit, from Jerry Lawler; Memphis, TN)

USWA SOUTHERN CHAMPION: DOUG GILBERT (August 1, 1994; from Brian Christopher; Memphis, TN)

USWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DANTE & GREAT MEPHISTO (August 15, 1994; title previously held up; Memphis, TN)

WCW TELEVISION CHAMPION: LORD STEVEN REGAL (June 23, 1994; from Larry Zbyszko; Charleston, SC)

WCW U.S. CHAMPION: STEVE AUSTIN (December 27, 1993; from Dustin Rhodes; Charlotte, NC)

WCW WORLD CHAMPION: HULK HOGAN (July 17, 1994; from Ric Flair; Orlando, FL)

WCW WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: PAUL ORNDORFF & PAUL ROMA (July 17, 1994; from Cactus Jack & Kevin Sullivan; Orlando, FL)

WINDY CITY WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE SMITH BROTHERS (November 13, 1993; from The Twin Turbos; Greenville, IL)

WORLD WIDE WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BRUTUS BEEFCAKE (April 16, 1994; from Nailz; Atlantic City, NJ)

WORLD WIDE WRESTLING ALLIANCE INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: JACK HAMMER (August 27, 1993; from Tony Allas; Freeport, Bahamas)

WORLD WIDE WRESTLING ALLIANCE TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT (Most recently held by The Diamond Express)
WORLD WRESTLING ALLIANCE TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DUANE & WAYNE GILL (May 14, 1994; from The Super Jocks; Williamstown, NJ)

WWA FRONTIER MARTIAL ARTS CHAMPION: MR. ONITA (September 19, 1992; from Tiger Jeet Singh; Yokohama, Japan)

WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: DIESEL (April 13, 1994; from Razor Ramon; Rochester, NY)

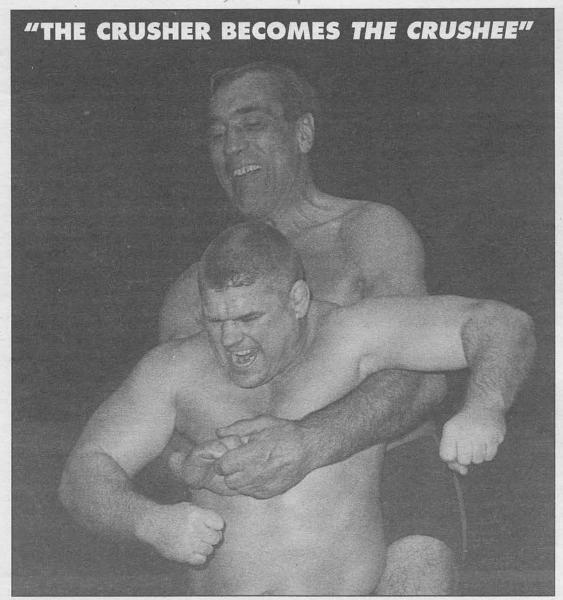
WWF WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: ALUNDRA BLAYZE (December 13, 1993; defeated Heidi Lee Morgan in tournament final; Poughkeepsie, NY)

WWF WORLD CHAMPION: BRET HART (March 20, 1994; from Yokozuna; New York, NY) WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE HEADSHRINKERS (April 26, 1994; from The Quebecers; Burlington, VT)

INSIDE WRESTLING

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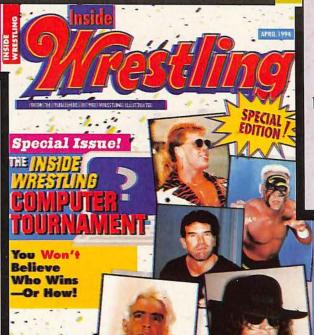


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